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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

UK minister Lisa Nandy quits X, says "a platform originally designed for free speech & expression **now favours abuse and misinformation over meaningful debate.** It isn't healthy for our democracy or our communities", P 15

Venice's new mayor proposes dynamic pricing system for the city's 3-year-old day-tripper access fee, seeks approval to raise the charge to $59 on busiest days to ease overcrowding, P 15

FLIPPED IT by THE TIMES OF INDIA — **A 60-SECOND DAILY WORD CHALLENGE.** Crack the word, build your streak, share your score. Top scorers get featured in TOI

Cristiano Ronaldo scores the first World Cup knockout-stage goal of his career and Goncalo Ramos nets a stoppage-time header as **Portugal battled into the last 16 of the World Cup with a drama-filled 2-1 victory over Croatia,** P 19

TN ex-minister held for remarks against CM Vijay

DMK MLA and ex-minister Anitha R Radhakrishnan was arrested for "derogatory remarks" against CM Vijay after HC rejected his bail plea. The MLA was questioned for over 5 hours before being taken to a jurisdictional magistrate, prompting former CM Stalin to remark that Vijay was "running a police state in the style of an action movie." TNN

Overnight lines to pay respects to Khamenei

Several hundred people were waiting on Friday outside the venue for the funeral of Iran's slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei ahead of its opening to the public on Saturday. Khamenei will lie in state at the Grand Mosalla religious complex in Tehran until Monday, with doors scheduled to open at 6am local time (0230 GMT). P 15

Tibetan sets self on fire outside UN HQ

A man carrying a Tibetan flag died after setting himself on fire outside the UN HQ in New York Thursday in an act of protest. Lobga Rangzen was an Uber driver and had reportedly been residing in US for two decades. P 15

ED auctions plane of firm under probe

In a first, ED has auctioned a Hawker 800A plane, owned by Falcon Group, under probe in a Rs 792-crore bogus invoice discounting scam. The Rs-20 crore plane was sold for Rs 3 crore. P 7

Indus water pact to stay suspended, asserts India

'Till Pak Credibly, Irrevocably Ends Export Of Terror'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India reiterated Friday that Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will be held in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. The ministry of external affairs said India's position on the treaty is consistent.

"The IWT stands in abeyance in response to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Pakistan must credibly and irrevocably abjure support for cross-border terrorism," said spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Following last year's Pahalgam attack, India put in abeyance the 1960 IWT, saying blood and water can't flow together.

The remarks followed Pakistan's rejection this week of alleged Indian effort to control rivers by treating water as a "strategic asset". Foreign office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan rejected "India's attempt to invoke baseless allegations of terrorism as a pretext for placing IWT in abeyance and obstructing the lawful flow of the Pakistani share."

"Let this be very clear: the real issue is not terrorism. The real issue is the growing disposition within the Indian leadership to treat a shared international river system as a strategic asset that can be controlled, withheld or diverted at will," he alleged.

▶ Eastern rivers, P 13

PLEA FOR TALKS REPUDIATED

- MEA's assertion in wake of **Pak foreign minister Ishaq Dar** saying India's stand amounts to **'weaponisation of water'** that may have serious implications for regional peace and security
- MEA spokesperson's remarks also seen as repudiation of an **appeal by 'prominent' citizens from India and Pakistan to start bilateral talks.** Group included J&K ex-CM Farooq Abdullah, former R&AW chief A S Dulat and Bengal MLA Humayun Kabir
- World Bank-brokered IWT allocated **eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej) to India; western rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum) to Pakistan,** with limited use provisions for India

35L+ objections filed across K'taka, Tata Power drops distribution bid

Bengaluru: Tata Power Friday withdrew its application seeking distribution licence for 19 districts in Karnataka, pre-empting a possible turf battle over privatisation of electricity sector in the state, **reports Niranjan Kaggere.**

On Thursday, chief minister DK Shivakumar had categorically opposed any privatisation move.

Sources said a team of over 25 advocates representing Tata Power appeared before Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission Friday for a hearing. More than 35 lakh written objections, including 10 lakh online, were submitted from across the state — a record. The company pulled out their bid on 'technical grounds'.

▶ Set a precedent, P 6

Spouse accused of adultery can't invoke right to privacy: SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution cannot be used as a shield to deny the spouse access to mobile call records and details of stay in a hotel to prove adultery, SC said on Friday as it rejected the plea of a man who alleged that disclosure of such information in court is violative of his fundamental right.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and K Vinod Chandran upheld the order of Delhi HC, which ruled that right to privacy was not absolute and is subject to certain reasonable restrictions in cases where public interests are involved. HC relied on a constitution bench order of the apex court, which said the freedom to have a consensual sexual relationship outside marriage does not warrant protection under Article 21 of the Constitution.

▶ Family court, P 10

IN THE COURTS

- **SC Bar Association slams abusive online campaign against MP judge Tabassum** Khan and seeks action against those behind it | P 7
- Honeymoon murder case: **Supreme Court refuses to stay bail granted by high court to Sonam Raghuvanshi**
- Karnataka high court says a **father who gave up responsibility can't seek child visitation rights** | P 6
- Madras HC **imposes ₹50k cost on MEA, MHA officials** for failing to assist court in a habeas corpus plea | P 13

Creche horror: Parents say kid has loo phobia; nanny arrested

Parents of a toddler allegedly abused at a daycare centre at an IT company's campus in Bengaluru informed police their kid has signs of aversion to visiting bathrooms after the kid started going to the facility.

A team led by deputy commissioner of police (southeast) Mohammad Sujeetha interacted with the parents of affected toddlers.

Police probe has not found material yet to support allegations that the caretakers locked toddlers inside washing machines or sprayed water into their mouths. Police are questioning the whistleblower, who made the videos, about the incident, sources said. One nanny, Vijayalakshmi, 55, was arrested. Caretakers' monthly salary of Rs 8,000 has come under lens. P 3

B'luru, C'garh, Delhi top average income: Report

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Delhi have the highest average income in the country, while Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram and Vadodara top the charts on average household spend, a report by data outfit PRICE and Tata Sons, accessed exclusively by **TOI,** has shown.

▶ FM: Nearly 500 cities set to emerge as eco hubs, P 17

But when it comes to overall demand, the country's top six cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad — account for 46% of the total consumption and two-thirds of the urban consumption.

Within this, Delhi NCR is by far the biggest consumption base: At $126 billion it is as big as the combined heft of Mumbai and Bengaluru, which adds up to $134 billion. Now, that's because of the population, as NCR has 7.5 million households compared with 4.6 million in Mumbai.

When it comes to scale, NCR households annually spend over $33 billion on transportation — larger than Pune or Ahmedabad's total consumption market.

According to the report, share of middle-income households has nearly doubled in the past decade.

▶ Top 100 cities, P 13

Jobs for kin: KPSC board bars chief from meetings

The board of Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has asked the state govt to act against chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar over alleged lapses in the recruitment of his daughters to govt posts.

According to a source, KPSC members decided to keep Sahukar out of board meetings and exam work as he enjoys constitutional immunity. "We will now send the board's decision to govt for initiating action against the chairman," the source said. Sahukar had earlier denied any role in the selection process. Sources said steps have begun to cancel one daughter's appointment. TNN

CEO cracks down on SIR lapses in K'taka, says BLOs must visit homes

Pearl.Dsouza@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka chief electoral officer **V Anbukkumar** has directed booth level officers (BLOs) to carry out mandatory door-to-door verification under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state. This follows complaints that many BLOs were distributing voter enumeration forms from their offices and other locations instead of visiting the households.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 4

The directive comes amid allegations by opposition parties of procedural violations and misuse of the SIR exercise by governing Congress.

Anbukkumar has instructed all district election officers to ensure BLOs visit every household to distribute enumeration forms, in line with the Election Commission guidelines. Earlier, Union minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) released videos purportedly showing voter verification being conducted at community halls in Ramanagara, Yeshwantpur and Kunigal instead of at voters' doorsteps.

In a communication to all district election officers, including the Bengaluru district election officer and the Greater Bengaluru Authority chief commissioner, Anbukkumar warned that any deviation from the prescribed procedure would invite strict action.

▶ Forged certs used, P 6

Govt fixing polls with EC's help: Oppn to CJI

Claiming that democracy is in 'jeopardy' because the BJP-led govt is 'manipulating' elections with the help of a 'biased' Election Commission, the joint opposition has urged CJI Surya Kant to suspend SIR of electoral rolls, arguing it should be done five years before an assembly election. P 13

Child abuse ads on Insta: Govt to summon Meta

The Centre is set to summon Meta officials after reports alleged paid advertisements on Instagram promoted child sexual abuse material in India. IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed officials from the ministry of electronics and information technology to seek a formal explanation from the company, sources said Friday. The ministry may seek details of the company's ad-screening mechanism and safeguards to prevent a repeat. P 13

▶ 'Govt may look at separate legal framework for AI', P 17
▶ Drop battery kill apps: Govt tells Google and Apple, P 7

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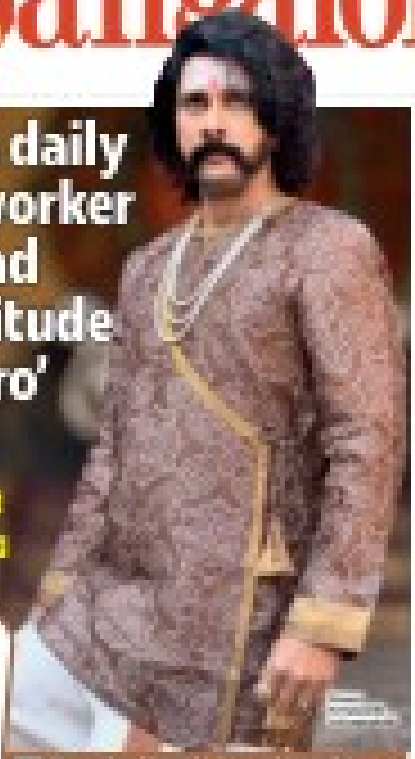
Bangalore Times

'I was a daily wage worker but I had the attitude of a hero'

Drawn inside facts of his early struggle before 30 years in the Kannada film industry and ninth fight on his role in Bengaluru murder, Mahaganthu Kempegowda



I have a daughter and I always admire women who make efforts in films or in real life. I get the same advice to friends as this. If you are still confused to choose a career, call the director directly. If your face is you are scared, you can apply such organisations like the actress' association or the film chamber for help

Buzzstop

I WON'T STEP DOWN UNTIL I PROVE MY INNOCENCE: BHARTHA MENON

What do you see? Someone watching a movie?

Yes, I am getting married, says Aamir Khan confirming his wedding to Gauri

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WHEN THE WATER DISAPPEARS... HISTORY REAPPEARS IN RESERVOIRS

As Karnataka's reservoirs shrink under a weak monsoon and the grip of El Niño, long-forgotten landscapes are emerging from their depths. Receding waters have started to reveal submerged heritage — temples, churches, old dams, and settlements — fragments of a past hidden under the backwaters of reservoirs, creating a striking visual contrast between heritage and water scarcity. **Niranjan Kaggere** maps the heritage landmarks resurfacing across shrinking backwaters

KRS (Cauvery)

LAKSHMI NARAYANASWAMY TEMPLE

A sharp fall in the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir level has brought the centuries-old Lakshmi Narayanaswamy Temple, near Bore Ananduru in Srirangapatna taluk, back into view turning the parched reservoir bed into an unexpected heritage site. The temple appears when the reservoir's water levels drop below 85 feet, attracting devotees, tourists and photographers to the exposed landscape. It was built in the 12th century AD around the same time as the famous Somanathapura temple in the Hoysala-style architecture. After over 75 years of submergence, the temple was recreated about one-and-a-half km away in its original glory in 2011 under CSR partnership.

WATER WOES

Officials estimate drinking water supply to Mysuru and Mandya districts from the KRS reservoir can be sustained for about two more months. "With the present storage, we can supply drinking water from the dam for another two months," said Lohith Kumar, assistant executive engineer with Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited.

WATER LEVEL (in feet)
Current: 81
Capacity: **49.5 TMC** of water

Linganamakki (Sharavathi)

OLD HIREBHASKAR DAM

Unlike most reservoirs that reveal submerged temples and shrines, the receding waters of the Linganamakki reservoir have exposed an unusual relic of Karnataka's engineering past — the long-forgotten Hirebhaskar (Madenuru) Dam. Built during the reign of Mysore Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and submerged after the commissioning of the Linganamakki project in 1964, the structure has resurfaced almost intact after spending more than five decades beneath the backwaters.

Constructed with traditional Surkhi mortar and fitted with 11 automatic volute siphons, the 114-foot dam stands as a remarkable example of pre-independence flood-control engineering. Its dramatic re-emergence near Sigandur has attracted tourists, history enthusiasts and vloggers eager to witness the rare sight. However, growing footfall has also raised concerns over littering and trespassing, prompting the forest department to impose restrictions in parts of the Kargal-Sharavathi Wildlife Range.

WATER LEVEL (in feet)
Current: 1,746
Capacity: **151.8 TMC** of water

— INPUTS FROM MYSURU, MANGALURU, BELAGAVI BUREAUS —

ANCIENT TEMPLES & VILLAGE

For the second time since 2023, receding Kabini waters have revealed a cluster of submerged heritage sites, bringing centuries-old temples and village remains back into view. Structures from Kittur village — including Gangadhareshwara, Bhavanishankara, Someshwara, Baneshwara and other shrines — have resurfaced after being submerged underwater decades ago. Remnants of Keerthipura village, including house foundations, Naga shrines and peepal stumps, are also visible. The Basavanna idol, relocated before submergence, continues to draw devotees, while former residents return to offer prayers. Officials from water resources department revealed that the famous Mastigudi temple, featured in the Dr Rajkumar starrer Sandalwood classic, 'Gandhada Gudi,' may emerge if water levels in the river drop by another two to three feet.

WATER LEVEL (in feet)
Current: 2,253
Capacity: **19.5 TMC** of water

Kabini backwaters, HD Kote

The number of visitors has increased substantially. Some tourists are misusing the site and consuming alcohol. This must be stopped — Annaiah Nayak, a guide

VITTHAL TEMPLE

A surge of visitors has reached Hunnur village in Hukkeri taluk after the submerged Vitthal Temple reappeared in the Hidkal reservoir backwaters. The shrine, built in 1951 in Hemadpanti style, has emerged only for the second time since 2023.

Devotees have begun cleaning the premises and offering prayers as images of the temple circulate widely on social media. **The site drew over 10 lakh visitors during its last emergence.** Authorities have urged caution amid rising footfall and crowding concerns.

WATER LEVEL (in feet)
Current: 2,092
Capacity: **51 TMC** of water

Hidkal (Ghataprabha)

Gorur (Hemavathi)

SHETTIHALLI CHURCH

The skeletal remains of Shettihalli Rosary Church stand exposed once again as Hemavathi waters recede, revealing one of Karnataka's most photographed heritage landmarks. Built in the 1860s by French missionaries, the Gothic-style flattish brick structure was submerged after the Hemavathi Dam was constructed in 1960.

Known as both the 'Submerged Church' and 'Floating Church,' the site now attracts large numbers of tourists during both monsoon and summer. **"It is a unique example of Gothic architecture. The tourism department should develop facilities here,"** said visitor Arun Srikanta.

WATER LEVEL (in feet)
Current: 2,892
Capacity: **37.1 TMC** of water

SACRED SANGAMA KSHETRA AT UPPINANGADI

At the confluence of the Kumaradhara and Nethravati rivers in Uppinangady, the Sahasra Lingeshwara Shivalinga remains partially submerged at Sangama Kshetra, resurfacing and submerging with seasonal river flow changes. The site draws devotees for ritual offerings and ancestral rites.

Biliyoor Vented Dam (Nethravathi)

'Who cut road in ORR?' Civic agencies shift the blame

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

ON THE SPOT: Krishna Byre Gowda at a late-night inspection of the Outer Ring Road with officials of different departments Thursday

Bengaluru: A late-night inspection of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) by greater Bengaluru development minister Krishna Byre Gowda Thursday exposed the governance problem that has plagued the city for decades — the lack of coordination among civic agencies. During the visit, officials of various departments were unable to clearly identify which agency had dug up a service road, highlighting the confusion and lack of accountability that often results in repeated road cutting, delays and inconvenience to citizens.

When Byre Gowda questioned officials about the excavation, East Bengaluru City Corporation engineers reportedly attributed it to Bescom. However, Bescom officials denied responsibility, leaving the minister without a clear answer on who had carried out the work.

The minister was seen telling the engineers, "How did you allow another agency to cut the road.... This looks like it was done by OFC. Get the Bescom answer." Caught off-guard, officials stood there trying to figure out who had dug up the road.

Addressing the challenge, Byre Gowda Friday convened a second meeting of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) executive committee, a body constituted to improve coordination among various civic and infrastructure agencies operating in the city. The committee brings together senior officials from the five city corporations, BWSSB, Bescom, BMTC, BMRCL, BDA, K-Ride, traffic police, fire and emergency services and others.

The minister said Bengaluru's residents have demanded better coordination among agencies for decades, pointing out that one department often lays a road only for another to dig it up shortly afterwards for utility works.

To improve planning and information sharing, the minister directed officials to develop a unified GIS-based digital platform that will map roads, utilities, streetlights and all ongoing civic works across agencies. Every department will be required to upload its proposed projects and action plans before execution so that works can be coordinated in advance and road cutting can be minimised. The platform will also allow citizens to report civic issues such as potholes and track the status of corrective action. According to him, better coordination, technology-driven monitoring and regular engagement between agencies will help reduce public inconvenience, prevent wasteful expenditure and improve the delivery of civic services across Bengaluru.

Public consultation before ₹400-crore ORR makeover

The proposed Rs 400-crore redevelopment of the 17.1km Outer Ring Road corridor between Silk Board and Baiyappanahalli Metro stations will be taken up only after extensive public consultation, minister Krishna Byre Gowda said. The govt plans to seek feedback from residents, commuters, businesses, pedestrians, cyclists and other stakeholders before finalising the design of the ambitious B-Smile project. Officials said the consultations will help identify on-ground issues and ensure that the redesign reflects the needs of all road users.

Andhra man, 30, assaulted & burnt alive in garbage dump

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 30-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh was found murdered in Sarjapur late Thursday evening.

Early investigation indicated that assailants assaulted him and set him ablaze near a deserted stretch on Bikkanahalli Main Road in Burugunte village, near a private university. The deceased, identified as **Vamsikrishna**, was a native of Tenali in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh and was staying in a paying guest accommodation in Electronics City. He had completed a diploma in computer science in the city.

Police said the incident came to light around 6.30pm. A hotel owner, who noticed thick smoke on the roadside, rushed to the spot and found Vamsikrishna had been set ablaze in a garbage dump. His two-wheeler was also set on fire. The hotel owner alerted Sarjapur police.

Police visited the spot and found that Vamsikrishna had been dead. His body, which had over 70% burns, was shifted for post-mortem. During the investigation, police found that Vamsikrishna, who had worked for a private Electronics City firm, was currently unemployed and looking for a job.

A senior officer said Vamsikrishna had received a phone call from one of his friends from Andhra Pradesh, who had arrived in the city and asked him to pick him up. Vamsikrishna then left the PG to pick up his friend.

However, his phone was switched off after some time and was unreachable when his friend tried to call him repeatedly.

Police suspect that Vamsikrishna was intercepted by assailants, who assaulted him before pouring petrol on him, setting him on fire, and fleeing the spot. Police have seized his two-wheeler.

A case of murder has been registered at the Sarjapur police station. Police have recorded the statements of Vamsikrishna's friend and others.

Efforts are on to nab the accused, who are at large, and CCTV cameras are being verified to gather clues, police further said.

Former bar council clerk found dead at home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The decomposed body of a former bar council clerk, identified as Bhaskar Devadiga, was found at his house in RBI Colony, RT Nagar, Friday. Bhaskar was a native of Saligrama in Kundapura and used to work as a clerk with the bar council until two years back.

According to police, Bhaskar lived alone. His wife died around 10 years ago, while his daughter lived with her grandmother. Bhaskar was found dead on his bed, and it is suspected that he died of health issues three to four days ago.

The incident came to light when neighbours noticed a foul smell coming from his house.

RT Nagar police were alerted, and they rushed to the spot and broke open the door to find the decomposed body.

According to sources, his family members did not raise any suspicion over the death. However, a case of unnatural death report has been registered and an autopsy will be conducted.

2 train terminals may shift to Yeshwantpur

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: South Western Railway (SWR) has proposed changing the Bengaluru terminals of Kalaburagi and Belagavi Vande Bharat trains to Yeshwantpur from Aug due to logistical reasons.

SMVT Bengaluru-Kalaburagi Vande Bharat, which would depart SMVT at 2.40pm six days a week is proposed to start from Yeshwantpur at the same time. Similarly, KSR Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat, once approved, will originate from Yeshwantpur 12 minutes later than the existing departure time of 2.20pm.

In terms of the return services, the Kalaburagi Vande Bharat will reach Yeshwantpur at 2.10pm, 20 minutes later than its current arrival time of 1.50 pm. The Belagavi Vande Bharat will reach 20 minutes later at 2.10 pm than the existing 1.50 pm.

According to sources, the change has been proposed due to the integration of the rakes used to run both the services. While separate rakes are used to run these trains, sharing could come into effect once the new schedule is implemented. As per the proposal, once approved by the Railway Board, the changes could be implemented during the first week of Aug.

Pic for representation

The SMVT Bengaluru-Kalaburagi Vande Bharat, which departs SMVT at 2.40pm six days a week, is proposed to start from YPR

However, the shift of the services to Yeshwantpur will lead to changes in timings of the trains already operating from the station.

An important train that might be rescheduled is the Kacheguda-Yeshwantpur Vande Bharat which connects Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Interestingly, both Belagavi and Kalaburagi Vande Bharat trains are among the lowest occupied within Karnataka. According to SWR data, the service starting from Belagavi has the lowest booking percentage of all Vande Bharat's running within SWR at just 64.3%, generating Rs 8.9 crore in revenue between Aug 2025 and April 2026.

Fearing crackdown, street vendors clear footpaths ahead of civic drive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As the footpath encroachment clearance drive gathers momentum across the city, street vendors in several areas have begun vacating pavements to avoid enforcement action.

The pattern was clearly visible Friday along Jayamahal Main Road in JC Nagar, where dozens of fruit vendors had dismantled their makeshift mango stalls even before civic officials arrived. The stretch next to Palace Grounds (opposite TV Tower), which is usually dotted with 40 fruit stalls, wore an unusually deserted look after vendors voluntarily removed their canopies and tarpaulin sheets, following instructions from civic authorities to vacate the area. Fewer than 10 vendors remained, operating only from pushcarts.

Vendors said they chose to clear the pavements themselves fearing that their stalls would otherwise be confiscated or damaged by GBA personnel during the ongoing Safe Footpaths campaign. The situation was same in areas such as Vijayanagar, Begur, and Indiranagar as many regular vendors did not turn.

BENGALURU CENTRAL - Cambridge Road, Commissionerate area, Castle Street, Wood Street, Lower Agaram Road, 80 feet road in CV Raman Nagar, Old Madras Road, NGEF Junction–Benniganahalli stretch, Kanakanapalya Road, roads in Jayanagar and Chamarajpet, Avenue Road, Magadi Road and KG Road
10.9km 12
BENGALURU NORTH - Sahakaranagar 60 feet road, Thanisandra main road, Singapura main road, Dinnur main road near Kaval Byrasandra, Kammanahalli main road, Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road near Yelahanka Dairy, and Hesaraghatta main road near 8th Mile Junction
14.1km 8
DAY 3 DRIVE
RECLAIMS 60KM OF WALKWAYS
The crackdown Friday saw the city corporations reclaim around 61.4km of footpaths across Bengaluru. The drive targeted commercial encroachments, illegal structures and other obstructions occupying pedestrian spaces on major roads
BENGALURU WEST - Magadi Main Road, 100 feet ring road in Banashankari, 50 feet road from Mount Joy to Avalahalli BDA Park, West of Chord Road, Chord Road service road, South End Circle in Yediyur, Modi Hospital Road, Hosakerehalli main road, and Bhashyam Circle – 6th block junction stretch in Rajajinagar
16.5km 16*
BENGALURU SOUTH - 9th main road and 24th main road in Jayanagar, Kothanur main road, Elenahalli main road, Kanakapura main road near Banashankari TTMC junction to Sarakki Market signal, and Devarachikkanahalli main road
11.3km 10
BENGALURU EAST - Bellandur–Iblur Junction stretch, Whitefield main road from Mayura Bakery to Varthur Kodi, CMRIT to Kundalahalli, Lowry junction to Mahadevapura bridge, VR Mall to Decathlon on ITPL main road, and Kalkere Road from Horamavu to Agara
8.5km 7
Length of footpath cleared
No. of roads
*Total no. of roads cleared in 3 days

KEA to consider CBSE revaluation marks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

FOR THE FIRST TIME

Bengaluru: Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will now consider the revaluation marks of class 12 students under the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for calculating the ranks of the Common Entrance Test (CET).

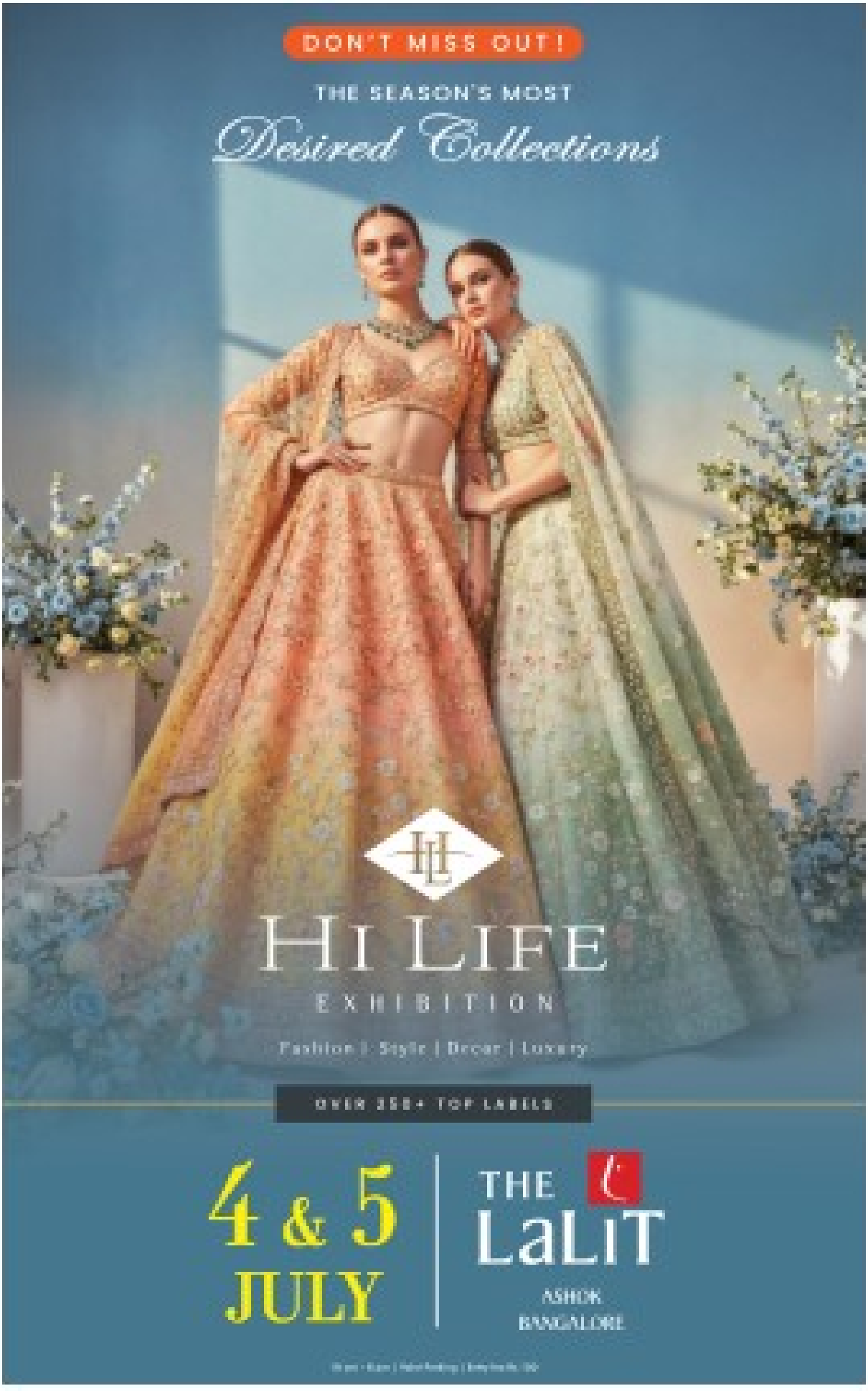
TOI reported Tuesday how several students had raised requests with KEA for the same. CET ranks are calculated by considering class 12 results and CET scores in a 50-50 ratio. There was a row over CBSE results after students alleged that the on-screen marking resulted in various discrepancies in the marks awarded. After the papers were sent for revaluation, many of them received better marks.

KEA released CET results on June 7 with the results from the original CBSE mark sheet. KEA, however, maintained it does not have the practice of considering revaluation marks for CET ranks. This is set to change now.

KEA, in its latest notification, has asked students to submit a copy of their updated marks card at KEA office in Bengaluru between July 4 and 6. KEA will verify the revised marks through the DigiLocker account and then update their rank. KEA office will also accept submissions even on Sunday (July 5), said the notification. This is applicable to both CBSE and ISC students. Parents of class 12 students welcomed the move. "Students really deserved this. We appreciate KEA's student-friendly decisions," said one parent.

Meanwhile, KEA has also said all students, who have a change in score, will have to inform it, including those who received lower marks. "Those with low scores also need to change their class 12 scores, which can lead to a significant difference in rank. If such changes are not made, such candidates will face problems during college admission," warned H Prasanna, executive director, KEA.

The seat matrix for Pharma-D, B-Pharma, yoga-naturopathy courses is not ready yet. Admissions will commence once these seat matrices are announced.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Kavitha Avadhani | Malleswaram
Meghana Deepak | Banashankari III Stage

Parents link kid's bathroom aversion to daycare abuse

Toddler Cries & Runs Out Of Loo: Mother

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Three days after the alleged abuse at a daycare centre inside the Capgemini campus in Brookefield came to light, parents of toddlers began recounting behavioural changes they believe may be linked to the incidents. In their statement to police, the parents of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl said their daughter developed an intense fear of bathrooms after joining the daycare.

According to official statements, the couple, both software professionals employed at different IT firms, enrolled their only child at the daycare around eight months ago. They would typically drop her off every morning before heading to work.

A police team led by deputy commissioner of police (southeast) Mohammad Sujeetha interacted with them as well as the parents of another toddler seen in the videos that went viral. The footage — showing caretakers at the daycare, operated by Little Scholars, behaving harshly with toddlers — sparked outrage across the country. In one clip, a young girl is seen locked inside a restroom, crying "amma, amma" while bending down to peer through the gap beneath the makeshift bathroom door.

The girl's parents, particularly her mother, told police that their daughter had developed a deep aversion to bathrooms and toilets. "She would refuse to go to the toilet or bathroom. She would cry and express fear on seeing or entering the toilet or bathroom. When taken for bathing or toilet purposes, she would try to run out of the room. We noticed this behavioural change within a month or two of her joining the daycare. Now we are clear that she was repeatedly locked inside the bathroom, as shown in the video, and that's why she developed this fear," they told investigators.

AI

Nanny arrested
Police Friday arrested caretaker Vijayalakshmi, 55, from Kolar, after finding out that she locked a child in a bathroom for crying continuously. Cops said they are questioning four more caretakers. Vijayalakshmi was produced before a judge at the latter's home office, and is now in 14-day judicial custody.

₹8k salary for caretaker facility staffers?

Officials from the labour department have approached police after learning that the monthly salary of the women caretakers was Rs 8,000. "As per the guidelines laid down by the labour department, the salaries should be a minimum of Rs 25,000. The caretakers, in their statement, have claimed that they were given Rs 8,000 a month. Seeking a copy of the statement, labour officials have contacted us. After obtaining the statements mentioning the salary part, they will approach the firm that ran the daycare centre," a senior police officer said. Authorities are checking if the low salaries added to the frustration of the nannies, who took it out on the toddlers.

Company acted irresponsibly: Home minister

Home minister Priyank Kharge came down heavily on Capgemini for the incident. "Such international companies will have standard operating procedures related to many administrative matters, including running daycare. I don't think Capgemini have followed any SOP here or acted responsibly. They haven't properly done background checks on staffers. We have zero tolerance towards Capgemini in this matter. We've asked them to give a detailed clarification. An incident of this nature not only damages the companies, but also the image of our Brand Bengaluru," he said.

Providing support to affected families: Capgemini

Capgemini said it is providing support, including access to a helpline facility, to the families affected by alleged abuse at a childcare facility on its premises.

In a statement Friday, the IT firm said, "At Capgemini, the safety and wellbeing of every child remain our highest priority. The situation reported at the daycare facility in Bengaluru, operated by the external provider Little Scholars, is being treated with the utmost seriousness. Our first thoughts are with the children and their families. We are extending all our support to them."

It added, "Our daycare providers are subject to rigorous due diligence and compliance checks. These facilities support our employees, who entrust their children to these centres. This is an important part of our commitment to our team members."

The firm listed out several actions it has taken, including temporary closure of the daycare facility pending review and "extending our full cooperation to the authorities to clarify the facts and support that those responsible are held accountable." It said its actions also included providing "support to affected families, including access to a helpline facility, dedicated counselling through our Employee Assistance Programme, and flexible work from home options".

"We are committed to acting decisively to protect our employees and their families," the company maintained.

Signs of fear and anxiety

The parents of another three-year-old boy said they had not noticed any behavioural changes in their son. They added, however, that they had sensed some caretakers frequently shouted at children. "While dropping or picking him up, we noticed that children would show signs of fear and anxiety on hearing the voices of some female caretakers," they said.

A senior police officer said investigators had found no material to support allegations that the caretakers locked toddlers inside washing machines or sprayed water into their mouths using toilet jets. "However, the videos clearly show caretakers yelling at toddlers and threatening them to control their behaviour. One video shows a nanny, Vijayalakshmi, locking a child inside the bathroom for crying," the officer said.

After Isro gets hoax bomb threat, suspect traced to UP

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A bomb threat email sent to the department of space and Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) headquarters triggered a high-alert security response before police investigations revealed it to be a hoax. Investigation led officers to Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, where the accused behind the email was traced.

The accused, Nishant Tyagi, 36, is an SSLC dropout, who completed BA through distance learning. Isro received the threat email, warning of a bomb blast, on Thursday. A comprehensive search was carried out, but officers found no explosives.

Following a complaint by the administrative officer of the Isro headquarters, Sanjaynagar police registered a case and a special team was formed for investigation. Relying on technical analysis, police travelled to Ghaziabad Thursday night and traced the accused to his house. Police found that Tyagi allegedly suffers from mental health issues. A senior officer explained that Tyagi had sent similar emails to other states, and cases have been registered against him.

Boulder accident: Quarry caretakers arrested

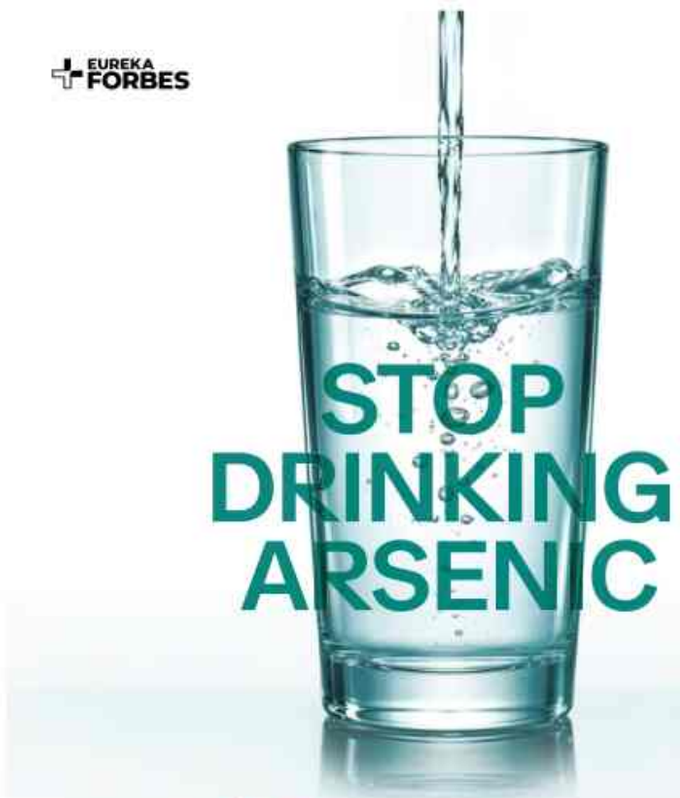
Times News Network

Bengaluru: Police probing the death of seven workers at a quarry in Tavarekere-Ramanagara in Bengaluru South arrested three quarry managers — N Lokesh and E Panduranga alias Pandu from Basaveshwara Crushers, and Raju N from Udayashankar Crushers.

Around 7am Thursday, a huge boulder from Basaveshwara Crushers came crashing down 40ft, mowing down the seven workers at Udayashankar Crushers. Five more workers sustained injuries. Soon after the tragedy, cops arrested Tirupati, the driver of the earthmover. The owners of the quarries, D Ananda Swamy and SR Udayashankar, are still elusive.

Tirupati, who was also injured in the accident, is currently undergoing treatment at Rajarajeshwari Hospital, Mysuru Road. One of the workers is in critical condition, while the remaining are out of danger, police said quoting doctors. "We produced the three accused persons before a court and have taken them into four days of police custody," an officer said.

EUREKA FORBES



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SMART BAZAAR

Youngsters can apply for voter ID after draft rolls

Pic for representation

FINALLY, SOME CLARITY: The electoral registration officer said eligible voters can apply online through Form 6 after the final SIR notification on Oct 7, when the electoral rolls are unfrozen

Pearl.Dsouza
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: With parents worried about enrolling first-time voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, election officials clarified that eligible young voters can be added even if they do not yet have a voter ID, though only after the draft rolls are published.

The electoral rolls were frozen in June 2026, and enumeration forms are being issued only to those whose names already appear on the rolls.

During door-to-door enumeration at one Mujir Pasha's home in Bengaluru Central, confusion arose when he sought to register his 20-year-old son, who has not yet obtained a voter ID.

"I have a 20-year-old son who hasn't made his ID card. How can he register?" he asked. Without a voter ID or EPIC number, the booth-level officer (BLO) was unable to locate an enumeration form for him, and the family was advised to try registering online.

During **TOI**'s visits to multiple households where enumeration was underway, another parent found his 19-year-old son's e-voter ID linked to his mobile number through the ECI (Election Commission of India) app.

In another case, the parents of a 19-year-old who are abroad did not have access to their phone numbers to check the same. "Her grandmother is home and will check with the BLO for registering her," they decided.

Yet another parent said her 18-year-old daughter also needed to be registered, but the process remained unclear during the BLO's visit.

Will have to wait until Aug 5 draft rolls: Official

Arun Kumar, electoral registration officer (ERO), said eligible voters can apply online through Form 6 after the final SIR notification on Oct 7, when the electoral rolls are unfrozen.

S Yogeshwar, joint chief electoral officer, said applicants will have to wait until the Aug 5 draft rolls.

"There will be no editing of the rolls now since they are frozen. They can apply, and after the SIR process, they will be issued voter cards. But applications will not be processed during the exercise," he said.

With the assembly and parliamentary elections at least two years away, the clarification offers some relief. However, apprehensions remain as several govt schemes and benefits are increasingly linked to voter IDs.

WHAT A DAY IN LIFE OF BOOTH-LEVEL OFFICER LOOKS LIKE

Glitches, anxiety & coloured stickers

For 59,050 booth-level officers, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls promises to be a grueling month-long marathon. These grassroots workers have to go door-to-door to verify voter details, collect documents, and update records. **Pearl D'Souza** spent a day with Shruthi KC, anganwadi teacher-turned-BLO, in Chickpet (Bengaluru) assembly constituency to capture the ground realities

Shruthi KC, anganwadi teacher-turned-BLO, at a voter's residence in Chickpet constituency

8AM | Managing morning anxiety

Fuelled only by a hurried early breakfast at home — mouthfuls gulped down while scanning her checklists — Shruthi seemed already under pressure. Long before hitting the streets near polling booth area 201, Shruthi's phone had been ringing off the hook since 5am with citizens sending voter card photos. At the location, she faced an anxious crowd at a local mosque operating as a quasi-voter facilitation centre. Terrified of deletion, voters walked toward her and the stack of 500 enumeration forms she carried. As the sole custodian of these papers, Shruthi had to find a fine line between being assertive and accommodative. She checked voter IDs against her lists, assured citizens that she would visit each house individually, and prevented a chaotic bottleneck.

11AM | Tech hurdles

By 11am, we set out on foot through a maze of narrow lanes, accompanied by BLA, a team of volunteers and her supervisor. The drive immediately hit a technological snag: The official ECI app malfunctioned on Shruthi's smartphone. Improvising, she used an agent's phone to verify the part number and serial number of the paper and scanned the family's QR code on her 'EF distribution tracker'. She handed over the forms and asked them to fill it before her next visit. The visit concluded with her pasting a purple-bordered sticker on the house, entering the assembly name, booth number, form serial number, and her contact details.

1PM | Locked doors & rickety stairs

Administrative gaps and physical hurdles tested her progress. The next house was locked. Surprisingly, Shruthi had not been supplied with the mandatory, red-bordered stickers. "They (officials) said we would have to put them after three visits and hence will be given later," she said. This directly contradicts ECI guidelines, which mandate that locked houses receive a red sticker on the first visit to serve as an immediate audit trail. The physical layout presented its own ordeals. We climbed a rickety metal staircase supported by loose wires to reach a third-floor voter. Here, we encountered a common systemic bottleneck: A woman was registered under Shruthi's booth, but her husband was mapped to another. This meant another BLO would have to climb the same dangerous stairs, leaving the household with a confusing clutter of multiple stickers. Before pushing forward, a quick lunch was squeezed into a 20-minute pause — Rs 25 rice and sambar from a local eatery — while keeping her heavy ledgers always close to her. Even during her meal, voters had gathered around her and approached her to visit their house first, which went against a systematic combing of the area that she had planned. The pressure intensified when a local politician and supporters arrived, attempting to join the drive.

3PM | Data quagmire & political pressure

Word spread, and with every house she visited, different communities gathered outside it to invite her home next. A political representative threw in his two cents, "Why don't you sort out the sheets by the street numbers and that way you cover houses street by street." Shruthi and her BLA2 tried sorting for a bit, but realised they would run out of time, and went back to their original plan combing all streets, regardless of people there being in their booth or not. The process devolved into a time-consuming quagmire, averaging 30 minutes per household. Older voter IDs failed to show up via digital mobile searches, forcing Shruthi to look up nine separate data categories on the app. Concurrently, a political worker aggressively questioned why his mobile number displayed his family's data but omitted his own name. A father anxiously inquired how to register his 20-year-old son without Form 6 — a document that Shruthi had not been provided with.

4.30PM | Confounding end-of-day queries

As evening neared, Shruthi was bombarded with complex queries, even as the sky was getting overcast, prompting her to pause work for the day. A displaced homeowner rushed up to ask whether he should wait at his old house or if he would receive his form at his new address two streets away. Flooded with queries, Shruthi noted the issues and promised to return. Her calls to her seniors who had to deal with nine other BLOs went unanswered. As the sun dipped, the bottom sheets in her bag were already fraying. With more days of gruelling walks ahead, the integrity of Karnataka's voter list rests on the endurance of these resilient frontliners.

Teachers' dilemma: Children or voters?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Govt teachers struggle to manage SIR duty, while also running classrooms & ensuring textbooks reach children

Bengaluru: Govt teachers are struggling to balance classroom teaching, the National Pulse Polio Immunisation Drive, and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

On day one of the enumeration, high school headmistress Kushtar Jehan, assigned to Sudhama Nagar, said she has received the enumeration forms but not the register required to record details of households visited. "I began enumeration on July 1, a day later, after receeing the area, with locals helping identify houses. I won't go in the morning because I have to ensure students at my school in Bada Makhaan don't miss classes — that's my main concern," she said. Jehan alternates between teaching and SIR duties. "Both education and SIR are important, as we were told during the DDPI meeting."

Ravikumar, a BBMP higher primary school teacher in Wilson Garden, said he had to travel to Bommanahalli to collect pending textbooks before resuming SIR work. "Five of our six guest teachers have also been assigned SIR duty," he said.

BBMP teacher Savithramma said three of the seven teachers in her school have been assigned SIR duty. "We have the PWD quarters to cover, and many houses there are vacant," she said.

ASHA worker Nagina Bhanu said she was engaged in the Pulse Polio drive, before reporting for SIR duty later in the afternoon.

Caste info optional for Gruha Jyothi: Bescom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Amid controversy over the collection of caste details during the ongoing verification of beneficiaries under the Gruha Jyothi free electricity scheme, Bescom Friday clarified that furnishing the information is purely optional.

The clarification comes a day after widespread criticism on social media and concerns raised by beneficiaries over the inclusion of a "category" column in the beneficiary verification form used by Bescom staff and meter readers during the statewide door-to-door verification drive. **TOI** had reported on the backlash in its July 2 edition.

The beneficiary verification exercise, which began across Karnataka on July 1, involves Escom staff collecting consumer information through the Seva Sindhu mobile app and printed declaration forms. The inclusion of caste details had sparked questions over its relevance in the universal electricity subsidy scheme, with several beneficiaries refusing to disclose the information.

Bescom stated that entering the beneficiary's category or caste certificate details is entirely voluntary. A formal statement from the company said field staff have already been instructed that if a consumer declines to furnish caste information, they should simply select the "refused to provide information" option available in the Seva Sindhu app. The utility reiterated that refusal to provide caste details will not affect a consumer's eligibility for the scheme.

Power utility opens helpline

Bescom has opened a dedicated helpline at the corporate office to address the queries of consumers and beneficiaries related to data collection and verification under the Gruha Jyothi Scheme. The helpline numbers -- 9480816111, 9480816112, 9480816113, and 9480816114 -- work daily from 6am to 10pm. TNN

Manual Scavenging Act invoked in STP death case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

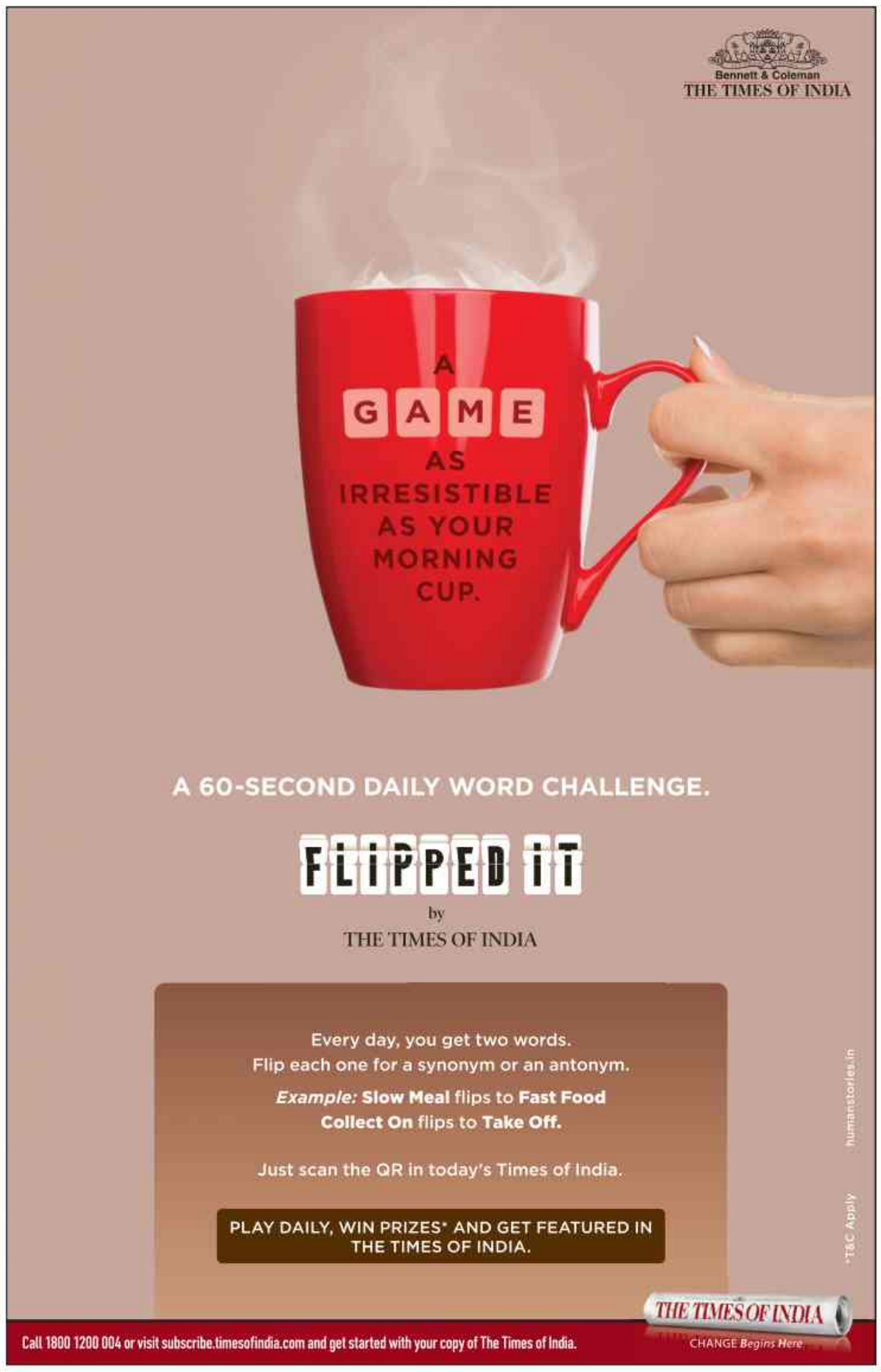
Bengaluru: The investigation into the deaths of two workers at the Balagere Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has taken a significant turn, with a Bengaluru Rural court permitting police to invoke provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, against the accused company and contractor.

According to the order passed by the II Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Bengaluru Rural district, investigators informed the court that the company and contractor had allegedly violated prescribed guidelines and made workers, Akilan and Akhilesh, work in the wet-well coarse screen gate area of the STP. Police contended that the workers subsequently fell into the system and died, necessitating the addition of Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Act.

The order marks a shift in the nature of the investigation, which initially was being probed as a case involving negligence. The addition of provisions under the 2013 Act raises questions about whether the workers were assigned hazardous cleaning work banned under law.

In a parallel development, the court also permitted the collection of blood samples from relatives for DNA examination.

The Balagere STP tragedy had claimed the lives of Akilan, a mechanical supervisor from Tamil Nadu, and Akhilesh, a worker from Bihar. While Akilan's body was recovered earlier, investigators have been relying on forensic procedures to identify the remains recovered during the prolonged search operation for Akhilesh.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Consequently, the Tender Notice, Bid Schedule, Tender Document, all Corrigendum issued thereto, and all actions, proceedings, communications, and processes undertaken in connection with the aforesaid tender shall stand cancelled, withdrawn, and shall be treated as null and void with immediate effect. No rights, claims, or obligations shall accrue to any party pursuant to the said tender process.

If the Department decides to invite fresh bids for the said project in future, the same shall be notified separately through a fresh Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations, and prescribed procurement procedures.

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The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for Design, Supply, Construction, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated Rolling Stock Coaching Depot at Hubballi including all Civil, Electrical General, Electrical Traction, Signalling & Telecom Works and Machinery, Tools & Plants* (the "Project") through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (the "EPC")	Rs. 2,01,20,399/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 20.07.2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

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Reference Number: YEA/PLNG/SM(P)/93/2026 Dated: 03.07.2026

Selection of Agency for Conducting Independent Engineer Services for development of International Film City in YEIDA

Detailed RFP document is available on the E-Procurement Portal of Government of UP **[https://etender.up.nic.in/]** from **07.07.2026.** The authority seeks Selection of Agency for Conducting Independent Engineer Services for development of International Film City in YEIDA.

Interested Applicants are required to submit their proposal online on the E-procurement website on or before **28.07.2026, 1700 hrs (IST).** In case of any queries, the Bidders are invited to contact on the following email id: **skbhatiapcs@gmail.com; yeida.planning@gmail.com;**

GM, Planning

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SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-3

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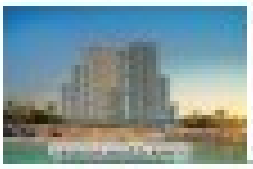

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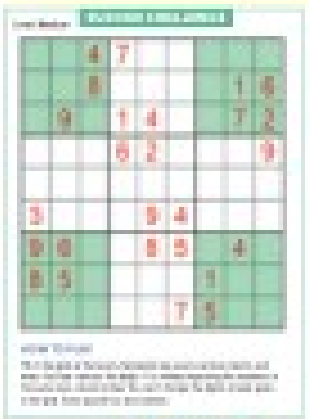

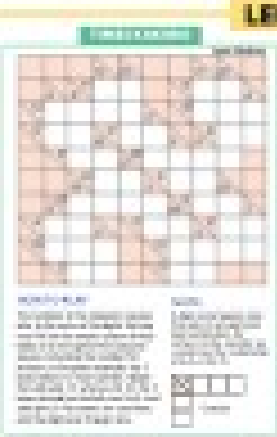

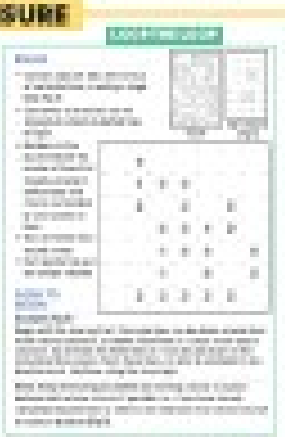

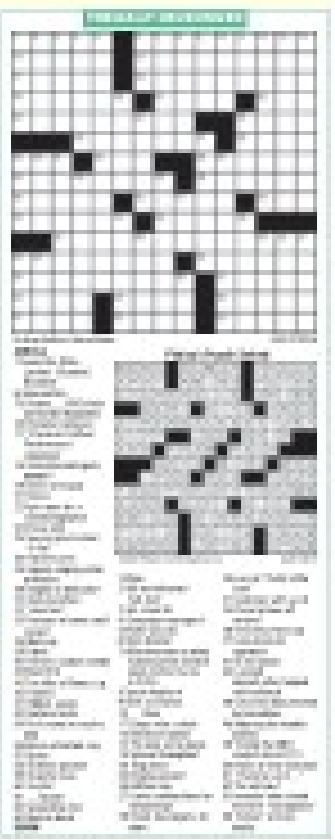

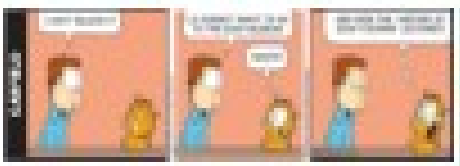

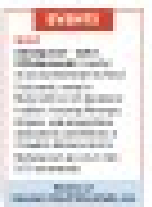

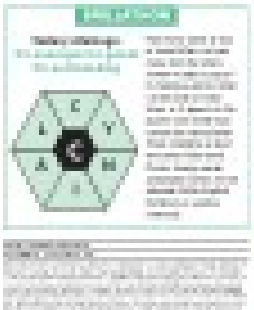

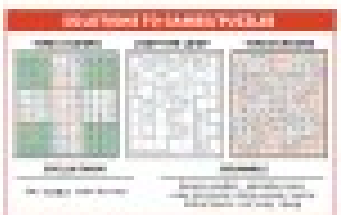

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Shivakumar's fast-paced 1st month as CM raises both hope and doubt

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
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Bengaluru: The first 30 days of DK Shivakumar as chief minister have played out exactly like his political persona: High-decibel, fast-paced and intensely centralised.

From attempting to settle long-standing inter-state water disputes to repairing Bengaluru's pothole-ridden roads, the new CM has spent his first month trying to project the image of a decisive, no-nonsense administrator.

Yet, as the honeymoon period draws to a close, the reality of governance is catching up. The initial month has exposed a stark divide between rapid-fire announcements at Vidhana Soudha and the grinding friction of implementation on the ground, leaving political observers wondering if the targets are too ambitious.

THE GOOD

- Free bus passes for all students; Bharat Jodo Youth Associations with ₹10 lakh grants in every gram panchayat and urban ward
- Major urban reforms including B-khata to A-khata conversion, OC exemption for houses up to 2,500sqft and a ₹2,000 crore plan to rid Bengaluru of potholes
- Administrative reforms through a six-month recruitment drive for 72,000 govt posts; creation of Praja Seva ministry; corruption helpline and anti-rowdy squads in every district
- Political and governance initiatives including victory for a fifth candidate in the legislative council polls; presentation of state's demands at the NITI Aayog meeting
- Secured inter-state consensus with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to protect interests of farmers in Tungabhadra basin

NOT SO GOOD

- Bidadi integrated township triggered sustained protests from farmers over land acquisition
- Review of guarantee schemes drew criticism from the opposition
- Delay in cabinet expansion and dissatisfaction over portfolio allocation

"The govt has made several ambitious announcements, but governance cannot be measured by declarations alone. The real test is whether people experience visible change
Aravind Bellad | DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER IN THE ASSEMBLY

"I do not recall any CM showing the level of urgency and intent DK Shivakumar has shown, immediately after assuming office. It promises a new phase of governance and his approach has gone beyond routine administration. Most of his announcements have been development-oriented and aimed at improving governance and public service delivery
Hidayathulla Kuvenda | POLITICAL ANALYST & ADVOCATE, KARNATAKA HIGH COURT

■ Populist moves

Shivakumar's govt has focused on populist moves, like the free bus passes for all students, conversion of B-khata properties to A, exemption of the mandatory occupancy certificate and setting up youth clubs. For Bengaluru, he unveiled a Rs 2,000 crore plan to repair roads and promised faster execution of infrastructure projects.

He institutionalised public grievance redressal by creating a dedicated Praja Seva department and announced a corruption helpline. Amid growing concerns over heinous crimes, he ordered anti-rowdy squads in every district and set a six-month deadline to complete recruitment to 72,000 govt posts.

On the national front, Shivakumar displayed his ability to negotiate with the Centres. Unlike Siddaramaiah, his predecessor, he attended the NITI Aayog governing council meeting to press Karnataka's demands. He also brought together Union jal shakti minister CR Patil and the chief ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to arrive at a consensus on protecting interests of farmers dependent on Tungabhadra dam water.

On the governance front, he initiated verification of beneficiaries under the guarantee schemes to ensure benefits reached only Karnataka residents and to plug leaks, a politically sensitive exercise that had remained untouched earlier. He also demonstrated his political clout by ensuring a fifth Congress candidate won the legislative council elections, out-manoeuvring BJP-JD(S) alliance.

A senior party functionary observed: "Shivakumar wants to prove he is an achiever who operates with corporate efficiency."

■ Significant blowback

But the hyper-activity has triggered significant blowback. The proposed Bidadi integrated township has already hit a wall of ryot resistance, sparking sustained protests from local farmers over land acquisition. The opposition has lost no time in weaponizing the unrest.

Political management within the ruling dispensation has also tested the new CM. A restricted initial intake left the cabinet with 20 vacant berths, triggering intense lobbying and open discontent — especially by Ramalinga Reddy and Krishna Byre Gowda — over portfolio allocations.

The review of the guarantee schemes has also come under attack, with opposition parties alleging that the govt was tweaking beneficiary rules because of a cash crunch. Critics branded the verification exercise as a stalling tactic to delay welfare payouts due to fiscal stress.

Political observers caution against drawing definitive conclusions from a single month in office. "Shivakumar has undoubtedly set an ambitious agenda. Whether that translates into administrative success will depend entirely on implementation over the next several months," said MB Maramkal political strategist .

As Shivakumar's administration enters its second month, the principal challenge remains looming drought and water scarcity.

As speculation grows over his silence, DKS calls on ex-CM

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

PTI

SEEKING BLESSINGS: CM DK Shivakumar and wife Usha present a memento to former CM Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Friday

Bengaluru: CM DK Shivakumar called on his predecessor Siddaramaiah at his residence and sought his blessings and guidance, a move that comes in the wake of the former CM's month-long silence sparking speculation within Congress.

At the breakfast meeting, Shivakumar was accompanied by his wife Usha and brother DK Suresh and came exactly a month after he assumed office. The move was seen within the party as an attempt to reinforce unity, while Siddaramaiah continues to maintain a low political profile.

Curiosity has grown over Siddaramaiah's silence since stepping down with senior Congress functionaries saying they are still unsure what it means. Party functionaries say Siddaramaiah had privately told confidants that he was deeply disappointed over not being acknowledged for his role in certain projects after leaving office.

"For instance, at the inauguration of the Tungabhadra dam crest gates, CMs of three states were present but not a single word was said on Siddaramaiah's contribution to the project," said a Congress legislator. "Similarly, his contribution to building SM Krishna Road was forgotten with Shivakumar hogging the limelight during its inauguration. As finance minister, Siddaramaiah had made specific allocations for the project."

"Siddaramaiah's leadership, experience, and commitment to the people of Karnataka have strengthened our state's development journey. I value his guidance and blessings, and we continue to work with dedication to build a stronger, more progressive Karnataka
DK SHIVAKUMAR | CM

■ Central to party plans

But a senior Congress functionary said Siddaramaiah remains central to the party's future — especially the 2028 assembly elections and the 2029 Lok Sabha polls — and that every effort is being made to keep him engaged. They pointed to Friday's meeting at Cauvery, the official chief minister's residence that Siddaramaiah continues to occupy, as a reflection of his enduring importance.

"Unlike many other former CMs from Karnataka who migrated to national politics and faded away, Siddaramaiah took the smart route to remain an indispensable force in state politics," a functionary said.

Political analyst Harish Ramaswamy said Siddaramaiah's silence should not be interpreted as political manoeuvring. "Having been in the public glare for so long in his career, Siddaramaiah appears to be taking a break to reconnect with family and friends. He has always been true to his ideology, and I believe he will remain firm to it," Ramaswamy said.

Despite protests, KHB plans to acquire 290 acres near Bidadi

Santoshkumar.B
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Undeterred by ongoing protests over the proposed Bidadi township project, the govt is marching ahead with another massive urban housing dream right on the edge of the city. It has issued final notification to acquire over 290 acres of land at BM Kaval near Kengeri for a mega township which Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) will build.

The international-standard township will eventually span 500 acres across BM Kaval and its surrounding villages. It is designed to offer a mixture of high-end residential layouts alongside dedicated apartment clusters for economically weaker sections (EWS), low-income group (LIG), and middle-income group (MIG) buyers.

Crucially, of the initial 290 acres notified under Central Land Acquisition Act last week, about 45 acres are kharab (govt) land, saving KHB from paying heavy compensation. For private landowners, the state is rolling out a 50:50 land-sharing model instead of standard cash payouts.

KA Dayananda, KHB housing commissioner, said: "We have hired an architectural engineering firm to design the project and will implement it according to the approved master plan."

Under the plan, owners get an upfront advance of Rs 20 lakh per acre, which they can return later to reclaim half of the developed land, or have it adjusted against their share.

The location is a major win for future residents, since Mysuru Road, NICE Road corridor, and the extended Namma Metro Purple Line is a stone's throw away. Apart from plots, KHB will build G+3 apartment complexes to help meet the govt target of providing 10,000 homes for the urban houseless.

Reviewing the project recently, CM DK Shivakumar told officials that the focus should be strictly on putting roofs over heads rather than just selling vacant land.

BJP: None for farmers, but govt releasing water to TN

IANS

COMBATIVE: BY Vijayendra attacks the govt over SIR on Friday

Bengaluru: Alleging the govt prioritised political interests over farmers despite an impending drought, BJP Friday demanded an explanation from chief minister DK Shivakumar on how much water has been released to Tamil Nadu from state reservoirs over the past two months.

State BJP president BY Vijayendra alleged water from the KRS dam was released to benefit Congress' alliance in Tamil Nadu, where the party is part of the C Vijay Joseph-led govt.

His remarks came a day after Shivakumar appealed to farmers to postpone sowing until the water situation improves. Vijayendra said Shivakumar must focus on protecting farmers instead of asking them to delay sowing. "The CM must conserve water in reservoirs," he said.

Vijayendra also asked whether Shivakumar had held discussions with Maharashtra to secure water releases for Karnataka before releasing water downstream.

He also criticised the decision to defer the assembly session to Aug, rejecting the govt's claim that it was due to the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls. "The real reason is the situation within Congress. Rates for cabinet berths have not been fixed, so the session is being postponed," Vijayendra said. TNN

SHORT TAKES

George wants tourism on cruise control

Tourism minister **KJ George** directed officials to formulate a plan to attract more international cruise liners at state ports. At a review meeting, George told officials to consult with major cruise operators on industry requirements and to encourage cruise passengers to spend more time in the state. A new Coastal–Malnad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026 would focus on development of Blue-Flag beaches, improvement of cleanliness and safety, stronger tourism infrastructure, and promotion of water sports and adventure activities.

Centre's funding delays hurting devpt: Khandre

At the all-India conference of RDPR ministers, minister Eshwar Khandre urged the Centre to release funds earmarked for gram panchayats by finance commissions, without delay. Khandre said that the Centre is yet to release Rs 2,186 crore that has accumulated over the previous five years (2021-22 to 2025-26). "Such incessant delays hurt the development of a state," he said. Khandre said, under the 16th Finance Commission, the state is set to receive Rs 18,889 crore including Rs 3,778 crore performance grant.

Departments owe Escoms ₹12k-cr, says energy min

Energy minister KJ George revealed govt departments owe Rs 12,631 crore in dues to Escoms. At a review meeting, George urged that steps be taken to either promptly clear dues or the matter to be resolved through securitisation. He, however, insisted that Gruha Jyothi scheme has not caused a burden. This comes even as the dept is clearing out ineligible beneficiaries and restricting the scheme to voters of Karnataka.

Torchlight rally for education reforms, Pradhan's resignation

Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (KPYCC) held a torchlight rally in Mahadevapura under its 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign, demanding accountability in the education system and the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Led by KPYCC president HS Manjunath, members sought reforms in the National Testing Agency, alleging repeated exam irregularities and paper leaks. He said the agitation would continue until the Centre addressed the demands.

No responsibility, no child visitation for dad, says HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A father who has voluntarily given up responsibility for his child cannot later seek visitation rights, Karnataka high court held recently, observing that parental rights cannot be separated from parental responsibilities.

"When a father is not ready to take up responsibility for the child financially and emotionally, he cannot interfere in the child's life for visitation again. When he avoids duty, he can't get rights," Justice P Sree Sudha observed in a June 29 order while allowing a petition filed by the boy's mother. The petitioner, a Bengaluru resident, had challenged a family court order passed under the Guardian and Wards Act on Jan 30, 2026, granting visitation rights to her former husband in respect of their five-year-old son.

According to the mother, their marriage was dissolved through a settlement reached at the Bangalore Mediation Centre on Sept 24, 2024. Under one of its terms, she was to remain the permanent custodian and guardian of the child, born in July 2021. The father had expressly stated that he had no objection to this arrangement and had voluntarily given up his visitation rights. She argued that in view of this settlement, the man's subsequent petition under the Guardian and Wards Act was not maintainable.

The mother further submitted that from the child's birth, the father had made no effort to visit, care for, or support the boy financially or emotionally. She also informed the court that the man had since remarried. Despite being served notice on the proceedings before the high court, the father didn't appear in court.

After examining the records, Justice Sree Sudha noted that the mother had consistently maintained that the father had shown no interest in the child's upbringing after the divorce. The judge observed that the family court had granted visitation rights without properly considering these facts. It had also directed the father to bear 50% of the child's educational expenses.

The high court held that the father had consciously and willingly relinquished his visitation rights as part of the mediated settlement and could not be permitted to reopen the issue through fresh litigation barely a year later. The mother never sought maintenance but only wanted to be declared the permanent custodian of the child in his best interests, the judge noted, allowing her petition.

Forged certs used to enrol voters: Min

▸ Continued from P1

The chief electoral officer reiterated that the month-long revision exercise must strictly follow ECI norms.

He also said voters facing difficulties in filling out enumeration forms could approach voter facilitation centres, and directed officials to publicise these hubs widely. The distribution of enumeration forms began across Karnataka on June 30. Around 59,050 BLOs have been deployed to cover 5.5 crore households before the house-to-house enumeration phase concludes on July 29.

Meanwhile, Union minister Shobha Karandlaje of BJP alleged that forged birth and residence certificates were being used to enrol illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the electoral rolls. She urged the ECI to intervene and prevent vote manipuation. State BJP chief BY Vijayendra also accused the Congress govt of exerting pressure on ground-level staff involved in the roll revision exercise.

Precedent against privatising power sector: Assn

▸ Continued from page 1

As soon as the KERC hearing began, advocates informed the commission of the company's decision to withdraw the application on technical grounds. The chairperson directed them to submit the request in writing," a source said.

The KERC's order confirmed the pullout by the private player. When **TOI** reached out, Tata Power said it "refuses to comment at this juncture". The state govt had assured 60,000 employees in the energy sector it would not permit any private players.

Tata Power had proposed to secure a distribution licence in districts serviced by five electricity supply companies. Sources said the application had received the highest number of objections in the commission's history. Given the volume a truck was used to deliver letters of objections to the KERC office, a source said.

The previous record was in 1999-2000 when nearly 10,000 objections were filed over power tariff move.

A KERC official said objections became infructuous since Tata Power voluntarily withdrew its application.

Several organisations and associations, including KEB Engineers' Association, Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors Association, farmers' organisations, citizens' groups, employees' unions and consumer organisations, had staged protests and submitted objections before the KERC.

To resolve the issue, the govt had even explored invoking Section 108 of the Electricity Act to issue policy directions to the KERC. However, it was reportedly advised against taking that route and instead decided to file objections through its Escoms.

K Balaram, president of the KPTCL Employees' Union, said, "All employees are happy with this development. They are thankful to the chief minister, the energy minister, and the state govt for standing firmly with the employees."

C Ramesh, president of the Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors Association, said, "This development has set a precedent at the national level against the privatisation of the power sector. It has demonstrated that when all stakeholders stand united, no one can jeopardise the sector."

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Chandrashekhar & Bhaskar (Sons),
Shilpashree & Menaka (Daughters-in-law)
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She is fondly remembered by her children, George Abraham and Sara Abraham Oxford; their spouses, Rupa and Troy; and her grandson, Atul.

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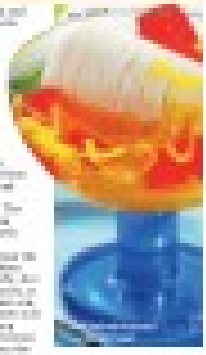

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

MAHA CM FADNAVIS DIRECTS OFFICIALS TO INCREASE CONVICTION RATE IN SC/ST ATROCITIES ACT CASES

UP PRODUCES OVER A QUARTER OF INDIA'S MANGOES, CAN BE WORLD'S FINEST VALUE CHAIN HUB: ADITYANATH

Apps misused to stop e-vehicles by accessing batteries go offline

Govt Orders Removal Of 7 Chinese Apps

MeitY sources said app platforms have been asked to strengthen due diligence for connected-device apps affecting public safety

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt has ordered Google and Apple to remove seven Chinese battery management apps, including BAT-BMS, Lossigy and Epoch-ion, from their app stores after reports surfaced online these were being misused to remotely disable battery-operated vehicles, including e-rickshaws.

The order — against the backdrop of bans and takedowns of apps linked to Chinese-origin platforms since the India-China Galwan confrontation in 2020 — marks the first to address issues of data security, sovereignty and remote interference linked to vehicle devices.

Govt sources said the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has warned that any other app found being used to interfere with or remotely shut down battery-operated vehicles will also be blocked. According to MeitY officials, similar applications are under the scanner and the matter is being closely monitored.

The action followed videos showing e-rickshaws, locally known as "totos", being stopped through Bluetooth-enabled battery management systems. In several clips, users were seen scanning nearby batteries through smartphone apps and switching off battery discharge, leaving drivers stranded and costing them several hours of work.

MeitY secretary S Krishnan said, "There are a couple of apps, which came to our notice yesterday and they have been taken down from the app stores." Officials said BAT-BMS and similar apps are designed to monitor battery parameters such as voltage, current, charge status and temperature.

However, on poorly secured systems, the same interface can be misused to control output and cut power supply. The risk, officials said, is higher in low-cost battery packs that allow Bluetooth access without passwords or authentication.

Following the Galwan clash, govt began a sweeping crackdown on Chinese-linked apps, banning 59 platforms including TikTok, SHAREit, UC Browser, CamScanner, Helo, Weibo and WeChat. It subsequently blocked hundreds more apps — including PUBG Mobile.

Vijay cabinet minister slams TN guv over review meet

Jaden.Thomas
@timesofindia.com

Madurai: A day after Tamil Nadu governor RV Arlekar met senior district officers in Madurai, state law minister R Nirmal Kumar said Lok Bhavan had no authority to review administrative works and instructed officials not to participate in such exercises.

"Administrative powers to review govt work rest solely with the elected govt and its representatives. Officials should not participate in any such exercise without the state's approval," Nirmal Kumar told officers at a meeting in Madurai.

The fresh confrontation between the governor and the state govt — the first since TVK assumed charge — has broken out after Arlekar met Madurai collector Nishant Krishna, city police commissioner S Rajendiran and DSP N Devanathan in Madurai on Thursday.

While officers stated it the meeting was a "courtesy call", DMK alleged that the governor was interfering in administrative work.

WMO warns rapid devpt of El Nino in July-Sept

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesofindia.com

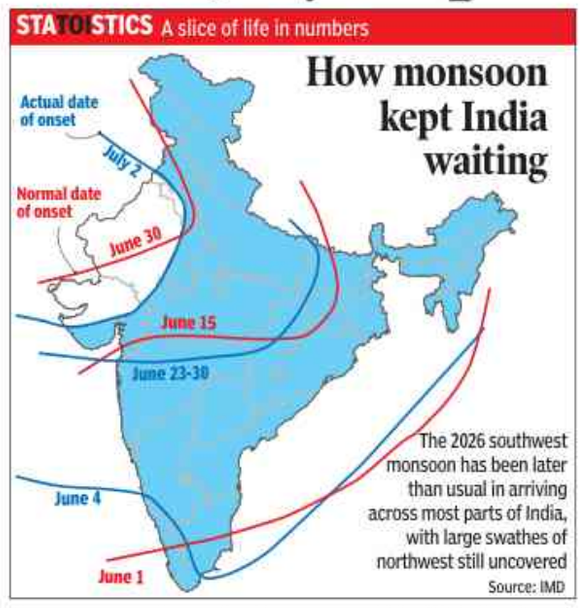
New Delhi: There doesn't appear to be any respite from El Nino's impact over the monsoon, with the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) latest update on Friday indicating a "rapid development" of this climatic phenomenon during July-Sept, increasing the likelihood of heat waves, droughts and other extreme weather events in many parts of the globe, including the Indian subcontinent.

India is already facing El Nino's influence with June recording a huge rainfall deficit of 40% for the month, affecting ongoing sowing operations of almost all kharif (summer sown) crops thereby reducing overall acreage in the country by around 23% compared to the corresponding period last year.

"El Niño conditions are already underway and are forecast to strengthen rapidly into a strong event... This will intensify the chances of drought and heavy rainfall and the risk of heatwaves on land and marine heatwaves in many regions of the world," said WMO secretary-general Celeste Saulo.

Though the rainfall deficit in India will gradually be reduced with the spread of monsoon over the entire country and due to other meteorological factors during July-Sept, the status of kharif acreage will depend on both quantitative as well as spatial distribution of rains in the 'monsoon core zone' - the rain-fed area where farming is largely dependent on the seasonal rains. All major crops - paddy, pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals (millets and maize) and cotton - have seen lower acreage so far this year compared to the corresponding period last year.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers


How monsoon kept India waiting
Actual date of onset
July 2
Normal date of onset
June 30
June 15
June 23-30
June 4
June 1
The 2026 southwest monsoon has been later than usual in arriving across most parts of India, with large swathes of northwest still uncovered
Source: IMD

MP woman judge gets extra cover after threats

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh police have blocked over 150 social media accounts, deployed six armed guards to guard the residence of a woman judge in Narmadapuram district and provided her with a personal security officer (PSO) after she received threats over convicting 14 people in a lynching case tied to suspicions of cow smuggling.

The deployments come days after MP HC called the threats to sessions judge Tabassum Khan a matter of "grave concern" and directed the DGP and additional chief secretary (home) to file affidavits within three days detailing steps taken to identify and prosecute the culprits.

Khan, posted in Narmadapuram's Seoni Malwa, had sentenced the 14 to life for lynching a man and thrashing two others in the 2022 case. Narmadapuram SP Sai Krishna confirmed Friday that Khan had been provided enhanced protection soon after the HC order. Police maintained that the situation was peaceful.

An FIR has been filed against two unidentified people over posts allegedly threatening the judge.

SCBA backs MP judge

Supreme Court Bar Association Friday came out in support of the sessions judge. It condemned the abusive social media campaign against her and sought action against those behind it. "SCBA expects Madhya Pradesh HC and the state govt to ensure a prompt, fair and effective investigation into the matter," its statement said. TNN

Goa teenager born with just one limb gets into IIT Gandhinagar

Lisa.Monteiro
@timesofindia.com

Joshua D'Cruz has a fully developed left hand and no legs

Panaji: After clearing JEE (Advanced) with a 69th rank in the persons with disability category, 17-year-old Joshua D'Cruz, who was born with only his left hand fully developed and with no lower limbs, has secured a seat at IIT-Gandhinagar to study computer science and engineering.

"It's a proud moment for me. My dreams to get into an IIT, and one of the best IITs, have come true. I always hoped that I would get into an IIT but never thought it would actually happen," Joshua told TOI, adding he is the first from Goa from the PwD category to get an IIT seat. "It will be a new experience, new chapter, and new journey for me. I'm both excited and nervous."

He hopes to develop affordable prosthetic arms and limbs, he told TOI. "This will take time, but this is my aim," he said. He credits his parents for their constant support, while his parents say he was determined and put in all the effort, battling all odds to make his dream come true.

When he moves into the campus later this month, he will be taking along two electric wheelchairs (one to charge and the other to use) and another scooter-type wheelchair for longer distances, to be able to get around the large campus. He didn't opt for any of the IITs further up north where the temperatures drop very low, as it would be too cold for Joshua to move around on the floor in his room.

"He pasted a sticker with the words IIT on his study table and was determined to do well. I've learnt so much from him," his mother Babita told TOI. She is positive the IIT campus would be accessible to Joshua, but worries how he will manage his course.

300 free luxury stays, & conman back in jail

Rashmi.Drolia
@timesofindia.com

Raipur: For over three decades, his address kept alternating between luxury hotels and prison cells.

Inspired by notorious conman and serial killer Charles Sobhraj, 69-year-old **Bingson John** has once again landed in police net after enjoying a five-star stay. The Tamil Nadu native was arrested from Bhubaneswar within 72 hours of walking out of a luxury hotel in Raipur on June 27, leaving behind an unpaid bill of Rs 63,755 and taking away a laptop worth Rs 1.5 lakh.

According to police, John has spent the last 36 years perfecting an unusual lifestyle — checking into some of the country's most expensive hotels under false identities, enjoying the hospitality for days, and disappearing without checkout.

Investigators claim his questioning revealed a trail of deception stretching across more than 10 states. Police said he claimed to have targeted nearly 300 hotels since 1990, and considered Sobhraj his inspiration. While checking in at a hotel, John would introduce himself as a foreign tour guide or a yoga instructor, and enjoy the complimentary hospitality.

In a first, ED auctions seized jet for ₹3 crore

Hyderabad: In first such action, the ED has auctioned a Hawker 800A aircraft, which belonged to a Hyderabad-based firm under probe, for Rs Rs 3 crore. The aircraft, which costs around Rs 20 crore on an average, belonged to Hyderabad-based Capital Protection Force Pvt Ltd, its CMD Amardeep Kumar and others, all accused in an alleged Rs 792-crore bogus invoice discounting scam.

The ED said the sale proceeds from the auction would be utilised to compensate genuine investors, subject to the approval of the court.

The aircraft was purchased by Pune-based DR Services. The auction was conducted after the adjudicating authority under the PMLA granted permission for the sale. TNN

INDIA DIGEST

Rebels 'take over' TMC office

Didi loyalists to move court

A day after meeting Election Commission officials and staking claim to Trinamool's name and symbol, rebel MLAs led by Ritabrata Banerjee, Firhad Hakim and others "took control" Friday of the party office in Kolkata and left after locking up the premises. Within an hour, ex-CM Mamata Banerjee's loyalists led by Kunal Ghosh and Madan Mitra rushed to the office off the city's EM Bypass but were stopped from entering by cops despite claiming they had keys to other gates. Amid stand-off, police and central forces were deployed at the spot.

Cloudburst in Kinnaur buries vehicles, shuts NH

A cloudburst struck Cholling in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district early Friday, sending massive debris onto the Shimla–Kinnaur national highway (NH-5) and disrupting traffic for nearly eight hours. A pickup truck and a Scorpio SUV were buried under the debris, but all occupants escaped unharmed. The cloudburst occurred around 4am, leaving long queues of stranded vehicles on both sides of NH-5.

Teen girl attacked with machete by suitor dies

A 17-year-old girl, who was injured in a machete attack by a youth after she rejected his proposal, died at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) on Friday, after battling for her life for more than a month. The deceased, Mridumudra Deka, was a Class 11 student in Assam's Nalbari district. Mridumudra and her cousin, Madhurjya Barman, 20, were attacked on May 31. Barman was declared dead at the Nalbari Medical College and Hospital. Police said the accused, Roz Ali alias Ashik Ali, attacked them after Mridumudra rejected his proposal earlier.

3 judges appointed in Andhra high court

Law ministry Friday notified appointment of three judges for Andhra Pradesh HC and that of two additional judges as permanent judges of Punjab & Haryana HC. Advocates Sunitha Gandham, Alapati Giridhar and Purushottam Kumar Chintalapudi were appointed as additional judges for two years in Andhra HC — which has 37 posts of judges; now eight are vacant.

2 die in Malegaon in slab collapse after heavy rain

A 65-year-old woman and her grandson were killed after a slab of their house collapsed in Malegaon during the first heavy spell of rain in the textile city, while incessant rainfall in Kolhapur and Satara led to multiple landslides and traffic disruptions on Friday.

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8880 003 003	8880 465 465	8880 003 003	8880 465 465	8880 013 310	8880 465 465
G+22	G+9	G+4	G+14	G+4	G+14

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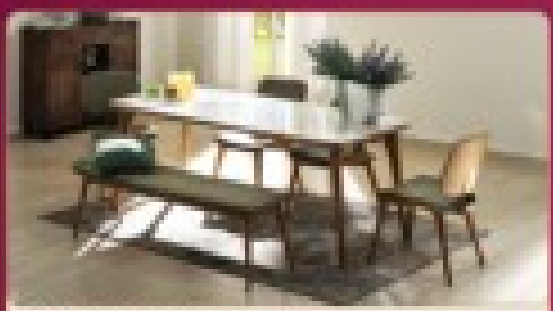

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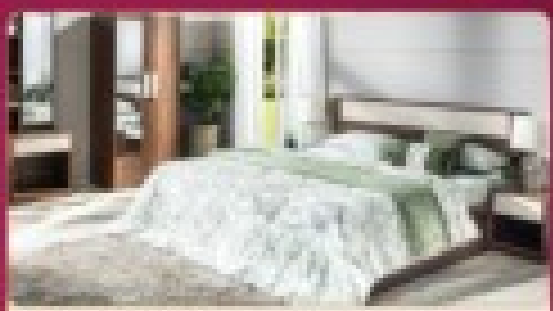

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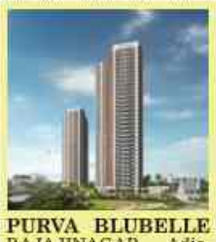

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VISVESWARAIAH Lyt BSK 6th Stg, Kempegowda Lyt, Nagarabhavi, ITI Lyt, Vidhanasouda Lyt. Immediate Registrn: 97403 82488

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sevenraj@gmail.com
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COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space sale- Sahakar nagar, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

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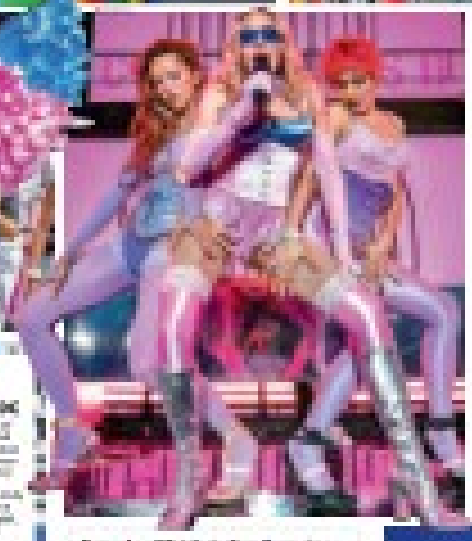
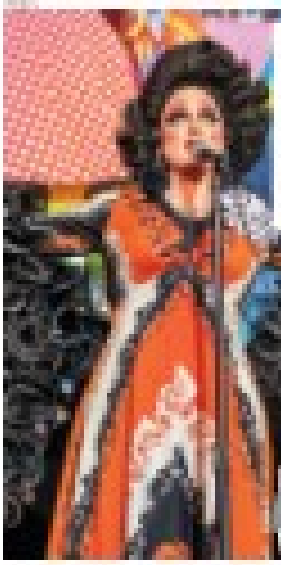


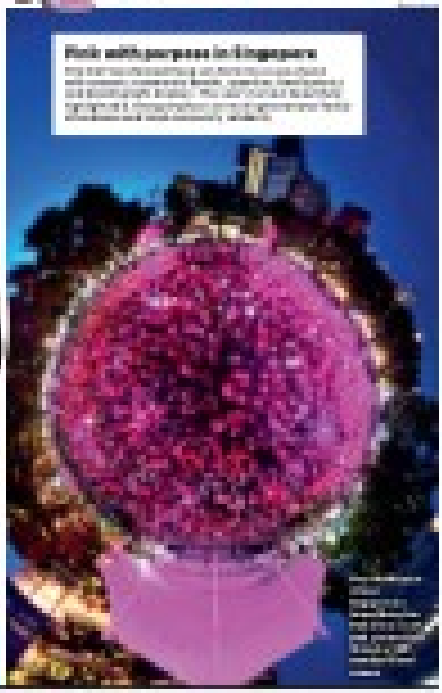
Madrid recession need for speed in sky-high heels



Art with attitude at Washington, DC

Parade of Pride in San Francisco

Pride with purpose in Singapore



When Pride celebrations showed up, despite a controversy

Healthcare accessibility reaches new heights

Delivering quality care across the state

Uttar Pradesh has witnessed significant improvements in healthcare accessibility and delivery through the expansion of health insurance coverage, medical infrastructure and digital health services. Millions of residents are benefiting from free health security under various government schemes, ensuring affordable access to quality treatment. The state has strengthened its healthcare network through a large number of empanelled hospitals, operational health and wellness centres, Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Ayush facilities. Advanced diagnostic services, tele-radiology and free dialysis facilities have enhanced healthcare access, particularly in underserved regions. Mobile medical units are extending medical services to remote rural areas, bringing healthcare closer to patients. The growing adoption of digital health initiatives, including ABHA accounts and professional health registries, reflects the state's focus on modernising healthcare and improving outcomes for citizens across urban and rural communities.

Maharshi Devraha Baba Autonomous State Medical College, Deoria

Government Ayurvedic College, Lucknow

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, Lucknow

Rajarshi Dashrath Autonomous State Medical College, Ayodhya

AIIMS Gorakhpur

TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH ACCESS AND INNOVATION

- Through Vama Sarthi, accessible healthcare services provided via MoUs with Tata IMG and Apollo Hospital. More than 37,990 police families benefited
- 45 government medical colleges, 2 by ESI and 36 private medical colleges; a total of 83 medical colleges operational
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University in Lucknow and AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Raebareli operational.
- Establishment of a diabetes center in SGPGI, 500-bedded advanced paediatric center
- In Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, the work of kidney, liver, bone marrow transplant and the advanced neuro sciences center completed
- Through teleconsulting and teleradiology by SGPGI, Lucknow, counselling/ assistance to Uttarakhand, Rohtak (Haryana), Odisha and Christian Medical College, Vellore. Through Tele-ICU, the institute connected with 6 medical colleges
- Emergency Medicine and Renal Transplant Center with a capacity of 558 beds started in 2022, and Advanced Diabetic Center in year 2024
- In Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute, Lucknow, Center for Advanced Molecular Diagnostics and Research for Cancer established. A total of 220 beds functional
- Teleradiology service provided at 227 Community Health Centers. From the start till now, total of more than 41,45, 000 patients benefited
- 50-bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals operational in 16 districts. In the year 2024-25, approximately 6,70,000 patients benefited
- In accordance with the National One Health Mission, the State One Health Mission established
- Control on Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)/ Japanese Encephalitis (JE)
- AES: Compared to 2017, in the year 2025, 94% reduction in the number of patients; 99.1% reduction in the number of deaths of patients
- JE: Compared to 2017, in 2025 96 percent reduction in the number of patients. 99% reduction in deaths of patients
- For the treatment of children affected by AES and JE, 16 pediatric intensive care units and 177 encephalitis treatment centers established
- National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme successfully implemented. On the 15th of every month, 'Integrated Nikshay Day' celebrated for TB, Kala-azar, Filariasis, and Leprosy
- Compared to 36 laboratories in 29 districts in 2017, in 2025 dengue advanced testing facility available in all 75 districts with 89 laboratories operational. At present, 86 sentinel laboratories and 3 apex laboratories operational in the state
- Compared to the total of 32,342 patients reported in 2017, 14,988 malaria patients reported in 2025. 53.60% reduction in total malaria patients. Expansion of testing facilities: 266% increase in the number of malaria tests
- More than 4 crore people benefited from the 108 ambulance service. A total of 250 Advanced Life Support service, 2270 National Ambulance Service and 2200 ambulances are operated under the 108 service. The fleet of ALS ambulance service increased from 125 to 375
- 1025 Health ATMs established in various PHCs of the state
- Uttar Pradesh is the leading state in the country, having issued 58.5 million (5.85 crore) Ayushman Cards so far.
- A total of 6,213 hospitals have been empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

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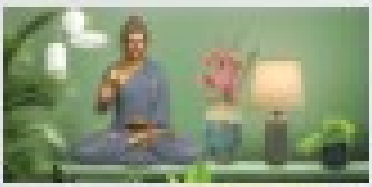

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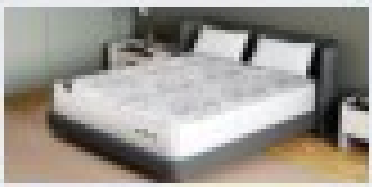

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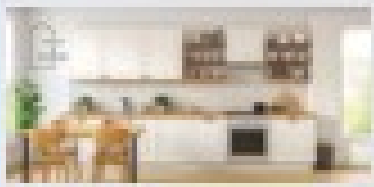

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I RAJINI V, W/o Naveen Kumar K.N. and R/o Kuduvathi Village, Chikkaballapur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, P.O. 562103, Karnataka, India; have changed my minor daughter (Age 10yr) name from VANYASHREE K.N. to AADHYA N. For all future purposes.

I Arun Chandrakant Sane residing at C509, Ozone Evergreens, Harlur Road, Bangalore, changed my son's name from Nikhil Arun Sane to Nikhil Sane, born on 15-07-08.

I, Jayendra Vijanand Patel, residing at Site 2095, Skanda Enclave, Flat 202, 16th Main Road, AECS Layout 'A' Block, Singasandra, Bengaluru-560068, (Permanent Address: AT: Bhadreshi, TA: Wadhawan, Dist: Surendranagar-363040) have changed my name to Jayendra Vijanandbhai Patel, my father's name from Vijanand Ramjibhai Patel to Vijanandbhai Ramjibhai Pandadiya and my mother's name from Kanchanben Vijanand Patel to Kanchanben Vijanandbhai Pandadiya for all purposes.

I, Vinutha Hanji W/o Mahantesh Hanji, residing at A-104, Oakyard Appts, 38th Cross, East End C Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069, have changed my full name from Vinutha Mahantesh Hanji to Vinutha Hanji vide affidavit dated 02/07/2026 sworn before Notary Mohammed Hussain. K. Bangalore.

I, Rehana Fathim, Rehana Fathima.N.A, N.A. Rehana, Rehana Nalapad Shiraz, Rehana Shiraz, W/o Shiraz Abdula M.S & D/o N.A. Mohammed (Old Name), R/at Nalpad House, No.23, 1st Cross, Magarath Road, Bangalore-560025, have changed my name to N A Rehana Fathim (Nalapad Ahmed Rehana Fathim) vide affidavit dated 01-07-2026 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M. N,Bengaluru.

I, Anand Thakur S/O Ashok Thakur residing at Electronic city-2, Bengaluru, have proposed to change my name in passport to Anand Ashok Thakur, to match my name as per my Adhaar card, vide affidavit dated 2.7.26 at Bengaluru

I Mir Maqfoor Raza State That My Son (Mir Abdul Raza) Residing at Alipura Gowribidanur Taluk 561213 Have Changed my Son Name To(SYED ABDUL RAZA) For All Future Purposes

I Mallika W/O Harender Singh, R/O 1-block ASP, Neeladri, 1st Cross, E-city-1, Bengaluru- 560100 Have chang my Name f rom Mallika to Mallika Singh Notary 10386

I, Hima Mangalagiri, residing at Tata Silk Farm, Basavanagudi , Bengaluru - 560004, declare that I have changed the name of my minor child from Jeevitesh Krishna Talluri to Talluri Jeevitesh Krishna vide affidavit dated 29th June 2026 sworn before Notary S.N. Madhu.

I, SHILPA SHYANBHOG C/o. Raju G, Residing at No. 115, 3rd Cross, 5th Main Road, Neeladri Layout Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Bangalore-560100. have changed my name to SHILPA RAJU G vide Affidavit dated 02.07.2026 sworn before notary V Rangaraju, B'luru.

LOST & FOUND

I "Gangula Venkata Subba Reddy have Lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in Nallur Village of Hosur Taluk, Dharmapuri Dist., Doc No - 4599/1992, Sy No - 442/1, Plot No - 24, Area Extend 1225 Sqft, (Present SRO Bagalur), While Some Personal Work in Banglore Near Marathahalli to Old Airport Road, Case Registered No - 2269913/2026, Sakala No - P0012S260001723, Aff No - IN-KA01202639055799Y. Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address, Gangula Venkata Subba Reddy, C/O Suresh Reddy, Do No - 2212, 3rd Cross, Indira Nagar (New Ganapathi Temple), Bangalore. Phone - 6300373778

IT Is Notified For The Information That My Original Qualifying Examination Certificate Of Main Secondary, Senior Secondary Examination Of Year 2024 And Roll No. 18127016 Issues By Cbse Has Been Actually Lost. Name Of The Candidate - Meher Nitin Agrawal. In Case Found Reach Out At 9632373877.

LOST ICSE CERTIFICATE I, Sherin Lee Thomas, lost my original 10th Pass Certificate (Index: T/153/026, Year: 1999, Hume McHenry Memorial High School, Pune). Call: 8939309447

LOST ISC CERTIFICATE I, Sherin Lee Thomas, lost my original 12th Pass Certificate (Index: B/8158/008, Year: 2001, St. Mary's Residential School, Pathanapuram). Call: 8939309447

I, Tejashwini Yalawar have lost my Original mark sheets Certificate of Master Degree year 2013 ID no. 71180600105 NIFT. If Found Please Contact: 9538669170

Family court sought hotel, call details

▶ Continued from page 1

This right of privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India has to be necessarily subject to reasonable restrictions, especially when the restrictions are in public interest. The Hindu Marriage Act specifically recognises adultery as a ground for divorce and, therefore, it would not at all be in public interest that the Court should, on the ground of right to privacy, come to the aid of a married man who, during the subsistence of his marriage, is alleged to have indulged in sexual relationships outside his marriage," HC held while approving the order of the family court, which directed furnishing of reservation details of his hotel stay and call detail records.

The husband thereafter moved SC, which did not find any error in the verdict.

Update email for free on Aadhaar app for 6 months

New Delhi: Aadhaar holders can now add or update their email ID directly through the Aadhaar app, with UIDAI making the service free for six months from July 1.

The facility removes the need to visit an Aadhaar centre for email updates and is aimed at improving convenience for residents. The Unique Identification Authority of India said more than 2.5 lakh people updated their email address in the first two days of the feature going live.

Linking an email ID with Aadhaar will help residents receive real-time alerts whenever an Aadhaar authentication request is carried out. TNN

Hurt faith of millions: RSS on Ram temple donation theft

Demands Stringent Punishment

Vaibhav Ganjapure & Proshun Chakraborty | TNN

Nagpur: The RSS on Friday broke its silence on the alleged theft of donations at Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, saying it had hurt the faith and sentiments of millions of devotees.

Urging stringent action against the guilty, RSS sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale said in a statement that the newly built Ram temple has emerged as "a centre of reverence, faith and devotion" for Hindus worldwide after decades of struggle, sacrifice and mobilisation linked to the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. "The theft in donation boxes at the Ram Lalla temple is extremely painful and has left us angry," he said.

The RSS statement noted the UP govt constituted an SIT following a request from the temple trust and initiated legal proceedings based on the panel's recommendations. Hosabale said, "Anyone found guilty after investigation should face severe punishment."

The Sangh also urged Ram Janmabhoomi temple trust to treat the episode as an "extraordinary matter" and immediately address shortcomings in management and operational systems to restore public confidence.

The Nagpur-headquartered organisation stressed the need for "proper financial management, flawless and transparent operational systems" and an atmosphere rooted in "purity, sanctity and true dharmikta" to ensure that devotees' faith in the Ayodhya temple remained "unbroken and steadfast."

The statement further called upon the Hindu community to maintain "patience and restraint" and alleged "anti-Hindu and anti-national forces" could attempt to exploit the incident to malign Hindu society and religious institutions.

Mastermind roped in kin, 200 handlers

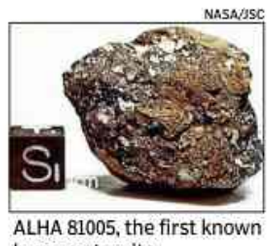
The mastermind of the donations theft racket explicitly 'taught employees how to steal' and roped in his nephew and an estimated 200 external handlers to run the operation, claims a three-part investigation, 'Operation Chanda Chori', by Times Now. The investigation features an on-camera whistle-blower, a close aide to SC-appointed Ram Mandir trustee Mahant Dinendra Das, who reveals a highly organised racket siphoning off gold, silver, and material donations meant for the temple. The investigation also reveals that gold and silver offerings were allegedly packed into sacks and transported via trains to Karnataka for melting, completely bypassing local jewellers in Ayodhya, Faizabad, or Lucknow. TNN

Chandrayaan-3 found soil that 1st-known lunar meteorite had

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Nearly three years after Chandrayaan-3 made history by landing in the Moon's south polar region, scientists have found that soil studied by its Pragyan rover closely matches the chemical makeup of the first meteorite ever confirmed to have come from the Moon.

The finding links measurements taken at the mission's "Shiv Shakti statio" with "ALHA 81005," a meteorite found in Antarctica's Allan Hills region during a 1981-82 expedition. ALHA 81005 was the first meteorite recognised as being of lunar origin.



NASA/JSC
ALHA 81005, the first known lunar meteorite

Researchers compared data from Pragyan's Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) against 66 lunar meteorites recovered on Earth. Of these, ALHA 81005 turned out to be the closest chemical match, with both samples sitting in an unusual compositional zone between two major lunar rock families — the aluminium-rich "ferroan anorthosites" and the denser "Mg-suite" rocks.

Isro's data shows Shiv Shakti station soil contains about 26.1% aluminium oxide, compared with 25.8% in ALHA 81005 — both notably lower than the 29.6% typical of the Moon's highland terrain.

Conversely, the combined iron-and-magnesium-oxide content at the landing site (14.4%) is close to the meteorite's 13.7%, and nearly double the highland average of about 8.15%. Isro was careful to note that this doesn't mean the meteorite physically originated at the Chandrayaan-3 site. Rather, it shows that both represent the same broad category of magnesium-rich material from Moon's crust.

HAPPY HAULS
TIMES interact
Connecting People, Connecting Needs.
READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

From fashion and home décor to beauty and everyday comforts, the monsoon season is inspiring thoughtful lifestyle upgrades

Rain-Ready Living

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesofindia.com

Monsoon brings with it more than cool breezes and rain-soaked streets. It ushers in a fresh shopping season. The change in weather encourages people to rethink their everyday essentials, choosing products that offer comfort, practicality and a touch of seasonal charm. Whether it's updating wardrobes with rain-friendly clothing, investing in weather-ready accessories, or refreshing beauty and home essentials, shopping during the monsoon reflects a balance of functionality and personal style.

AI GENERATED IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

STYLE ESSENTIALS

When it comes to clothing, practicality takes precedence, but not at the cost of style. Shoppers turn to lightweight, quick-drying fabrics such as cotton blends, crepe and rayon, which offer ease of movement and dry quickly. Bright colours and playful prints dominate the monsoon palette, providing a visual contrast to grey skies. Knee-length dresses, culottes and ankle-length trousers become go-to choices, helping wearers avoid water splashes while navigating puddle-lined streets. Footwear, too, undergoes a seasonal shift, with water-resistant sandals, floaters and slip-ons becoming essentials. Neha Patel, a fashion design student, shares, "Monsoon wear is gaining popularity, especially with heavy rains in many areas. Fabrics such as viscose and linen blends work well for those who need to step out for work during rainy days."

WEATHER-READY LAYERS

Monsoon outerwear today is more than just functional, it is fashion-forward. Trench coats, cropped rain jackets and ponchos in statement colours or translucent tones are in demand, offering both protection and polish. Umbrellas, once purely utilitarian, have become an extension of one's personal style. Compact, wind-resistant designs in artistic prints or minimalist solids are preferred, with people investing in sturdy options that promise both durability and design value. Rainwear, in general, is no longer a last-minute purchase but a considered investment aligned with the shopper's aesthetic sensibilities.

RAIN-FRIENDLY ACCESSORIES

Bags, jewellery and other accessories also reflect seasonal preferences. Waterproof totes and backpacks in durable materials such as faux leather or rubberised fabrics are favoured, offering both utility and flair. Chunky or metal-heavy jewellery takes a back seat, replaced by lightweight, non-rusting pieces. Watches with silicone straps, fuss-free hairbands and scarves in breathable fabrics complete the look. Accessories aren't just about style; they also simplify daily routines in often unpredictable weather.

BEAUTY THROUGH THE MONSOON

The monsoon has its own influence on grooming and skincare choices. Shoppers lean towards mattifying products, frizz-control haircare and long-wear make-up essentials. Humidity-friendly products become staples, while minimalism prevails over elaborate routines. Waterproof kajals, tinted balms and compact perfumes witness a noticeable spike in demand. Skincare routines also evolve, with lightweight moisturisers, cleansing wipes and exfoliators becoming must-haves. Dr Vidhi Shah, a dermatologist, shares, "The humid monsoon air can affect all skin types, leading to increased oiliness, clogged pores, breakouts and even dehydration. The skin also becomes more prone to fungal infections during this time, which is why many people reassess their skincare routine and opt for lighter, water-based products that don't feel heavy or sticky."

SEASONAL INDULGENCES

While essentials form the bulk of monsoon shopping, indulgent purchases play an equally important role. Warm beverages, snacks and cosy dinnerware often make their way into shopping baskets. People are increasingly investing in products that add comfort to rainy days, be it a new kettle, an oversized mug or an elegant tea set. Indoor plants, particularly low-maintenance varieties, are also growing in popularity, bringing a touch of greenery to rain-soaked balconies and windowsills. Falak Desai, a homemaker, shares, "Along with essentials, my family and I often pick up items such as aromatic candles and rechargeable lights. They feel indulgent but prove useful, especially during power cuts on rainy days."

100% Natural 7 Zone Latex Mattress
&
Reclining & Massaging Bed Base
COMBO PRICE ₹59000 QUEEN SIZE
WIRELESS REMOTE
SCAN TO WATCH DEMO VIDEO
RECLINE
MASSAGE
UNWIND.
Combo Includes Recliner Bed Frame & 4 Inches Latex Mattresss
neev MATTRESS
Basvangudi | RT Nagar | Rajajinagar
neevmattress.com | 73380 21446 | 96866 81034

neev MATTRESS
MEGA Xchange CARNIVAL ₹5000 Off
TODAY & TOMORROW
Natural LATEX TOP LAYER
Ortho Support
Not Too Hard or Soft, Just Right..
6 INCHES | NON-SPRING
Queen size ₹15900
Under Exchange ₹10900
Basvangudi | RT nagar | Rajajinagar | neevmattress.com | 98451 66299

neev MATTRESS
MEGA Xchange CARNIVAL ₹5000 Off
TODAY & TOMORROW
Natural LATEX TOP LAYER
Luxury was Never so Affordable
Body Contouring Medium Soft Mattress
9 INCHES | SPRING BASE
Queen size ₹17900
Under Exchange ₹12900
Basvangudi | RT nagar | Rajajinagar | neevmattress.com | 98451 66299

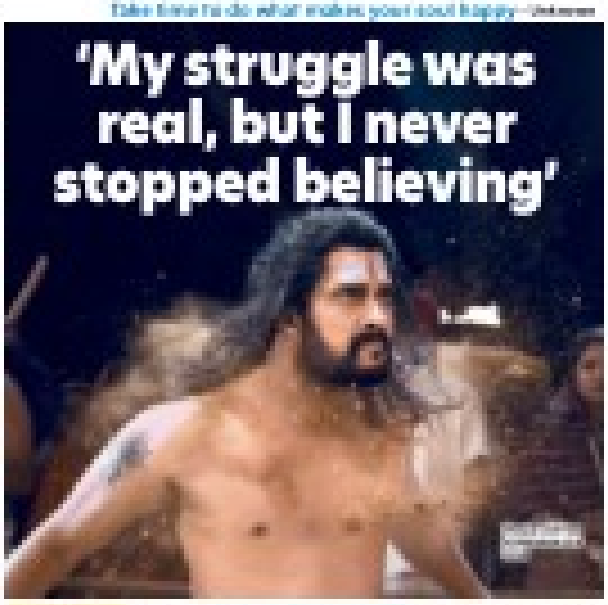
Take time to do what makes your soul happy

'No objection to the film's title'

Nithiin and Sreeleela's film titled Extra Ordinary Man has no objection from the family

The title is appropriate because in these days, people from the village where my mother performed rituals of sex call their births. I have heard people address my mother by that name

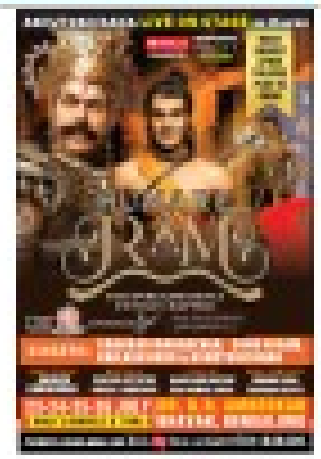
'My struggle was real, but I never stopped believing'



Every era and industry are the biggest. We have a fan-driven media ecosystem. Even as Telugu every industry started small, today they come and record-breaking shows I become very glad to grow up in this city. Likewise, we should have a responsible one now to be

GET NOTICED
TIMES inter ads

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS
times inter ads



BOOK YOUR VEHICLE ADS

पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान
NORTH EASTERN INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA & HOMOEOPATHY
(भारत सरकार, आयुष मंत्रालय के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
माउडिफ्लेंडिआँ, शिलांग, मेघालय- 793018 / Mawdiangdiang, Shillong, Meghalaya - 793018

सं. Advt. No. EST-16/1/2025-Administration Division/H-673

रिक्ति सूचना / VACANCY NOTICE

पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान (पू.आ.हो.सं), शिलांग में प्रतिनियुक्ति / सीधी भर्ती के आधार पर विभिन्न शिक्षण पदों को भरने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।

North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy (NEIAH), Shillong is inviting applications for various teaching posts to be filled up by Deputation /Direct Recruitment.

1. योग्यता, अनुभव, आरक्षण, आवेदन का निर्धारित प्रारूप, अपेक्षित शुल्क तथा अन्य सामान्य शर्तों के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु इच्छुक एवं पात्र अभ्यर्थियों को संस्थान की वेबसाइट **www.neiah.nic.in** का अवलोकन करने की सलाह दी जाती है।

   For details of qualifications, experience, reservation, prescribed format of application, requisite fee and other general conditions, interested and eligible candidates are advised to visit Institute website **www.neiah.nic.in**.

2. आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि रोजगार समाचार (Employment News) में विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 45 दिन होगी।

   Closing date for submission of application will be 45 days from the date of publication of Advertisement in the Employment News.

Sd/-
उप निदेशक (प्रशा.) / Dy. Director (Admn)
पू.आ.हो.सं, शिलांग / NEIAH, Shillong

CBC 17217/11/0003/2627

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
V. Ramalingaswami Bhavan, New Delhi
Advt.No.ICMR/DIR(Sc-H)/NIOH-NGP/01/2026- Pers.

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare invites online application(s) up to 20th July, 2026 till 5:30 PM for the post of the Director at the level of Scientist-H, in Level 15 of Pay Matrix (Rs. 182200-224100) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible to ICMR employees for appointment on regular basis under Direct Recruitment under ICMR- National Institute of One Health, Nagpur with all India transfer liability under the Council.

For detailed advertisement, please visit ICMR website at **https://www.icmr.gov.in** or **https://recruitment.icmr.org.in.**

Administrative Officer
For Asstt. Director General(A)

CBC 17152/11/0007/2627

सीएसआईआर – केंद्रीय विद्युतरसायन अनुसंधान संस्थान
CSIR - CENTRAL ELECTROCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कारैकुडी / Karaikudi-630 003.

Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7727864 & GEM/2026/B/7729559

An Open Tender call for the procurement of Vacuum Distillation Furnace and Bio Hydrogen Purification Plant

The Director, CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, invites bids from reputed manufacturers or their authorised bidders for the procurement of Vacuum Distillation Furnace and Bio Hydrogen Purification Plant.

Interested bidders are requested to visit the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal and the official website **(www.cecri.res.in)** for detailed tender specifications, eligibility criteria, and submission guidelines. All further updates regarding the bid would be available on GeM Portal.

Pre-Bid Meeting Details: **Date: 10th July 2026 Time: 10.00** AM (onwards)

Venue: Purchase Conference Hall, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi.

All Prospective bidders are encouraged to participate in the pre-bid meeting for clarification and discussion regarding the bid

वरिष्ठ स्टोर और खरीद नियंत्रक
Sr. Controller of Stores and Purchase

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise)
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
E-mail: pmd2@tnpl.co.in / pmd5@tnpl.co.in, web: www.tnpl.com
Phone No.04324-277001 (10 lines), Extn. 4402/4568

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No	Scope of Work	Due date
262713 002102	Fixing contractors for Production and Supply of Quality Clonal plants of pulpwood Species at TNPL Unit-I, Kagithapuram and its branch nurseries at Kagithanagar, Trichy, Katrambakkam, Viluppuram district, Thuvar, Pudukkottai district and Muthuservamadam, Ariyalur district for October 2026 to March 2029	20.07.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only.
For further details, please visit websites: www.tnpl.com/
https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/2181/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"நாளை மற்று நமதுமே அன்றுநாம், எனவே புரிந்து எரித்தும் பயம்போம்"

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) invites applications for filling up **02 posts of Deputy Manager (Information Technology)** in the Level 10 of Pay Matrix of 7th CPC (Rs. 56100-177500) with Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) **on Direct recruitment basis** through **GATE 2026 score** in the discipline of **Computer Science and Information Technology.**

Post	Category					Total Posts*
	UR	SC	ST	OBC (NCL) Central List only	EWS	
Deputy Manager (Information Technology)	01	00	00	01	00	**02**

*The number of posts advertised may increase or decrease as per requirements of the Authority.
2. Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen on NHAI website **www.nhai.gov.in**
3. **Last date of receipt of online application is 05.08.2026 (upto 6:00 PM).**
4. Corrigendum or Addendum or Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the immovable property mentioned and described in the schedule below from **(1) Shri. Noor Mohammed Abdul Khader Baig** and **(2) Shri. Munnavar Abdul Khader Baig,** both sons of Late Abdul Khader Noor Mohammed Mughul, (hereafter referred to as "Owners"). The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and they are in possession of the same and the Schedule Property is free from any encumbrance, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and they have not entered into any sort of Agreement/MOU/Deeds etc., for sale/transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objections, claims, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, possession, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction as though there are no claim (s)/objection(s)/demand(s) to the proposed transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of industrially converted land bearing Survey No. 172, measuring 4 acres 39 guntas (converted *vide* Official Memorandum dated 21-01-2003 in No. ALN:E:SR: 106/2002-03 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District), situated at Kannamangala Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

East by : Land in Survey No. 171;
West by : Road;
North by : Land in Survey No. 173; and
South by : Land in Survey No. 170.

Vinay K. S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point, No.7/49, Edward Road, Bengaluru-560001 Ph.: 080 22863885 / 49763233
Email:vinay@vinaykademane.in

Place : Bengaluru
Date: 04.07.2026

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
(Training Division)
Kartavya Bhavan-3, New Delhi - 110001

Recruitment Notice

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad is an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of Rural Development. NIRD&PR undertakes training, research, action research and consultancy functions in rural development. It provides an inter-disciplinary academic environment, backed by an excellent infrastructure and state-of-art research and computer facilities.

The Ministry of Rural Development invites applications in the prescribed format for the post of Registrar & Director (Administration) in NIRD&PR, Hyderabad.

1	Pay Band and Grade Pay (6th CPC)	Rs. 37400-67000 + G.P. Rs. 8700 (as per 6th CPC)
2	Method of Recruitment	Deputation basis
3	Tenure	Three years
4	Age limit	56 years on closing date of receipt of applications

Applications in the prescribed format should be sent through the Cadre Controlling Authority/ Department to the Deputy Secretary (Training), Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, 5B, Second Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003. Details regarding qualifications and experience along with application form may be downloaded from **https://www.dord.gov.in/** or **https://nirdpr.org.in/**

LAST DATE: 30 days from the date of advertisement.

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India
Email id: pradeep.kr67@nic.in

CBC 35101/11/0002/2627

F.No.A-12024/1/2024-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
*****

VACANCY NOTICE
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The vacancy notice published in the Employment News edition dated 23rd-29th May 2026 for filling the following posts in the Mahadayi PRAWAH on a deputation basis (including short-term contract) by this office is hereby revised. **The last date for submission of duly filled applications, which was 21.06.2026, has been further extended by 04 Weeks from the date of publication of this vacancy notice in the Employment News.**

S.No.	Name of the post	Pay Scale	No. of Post
1.	Member (Environmental Issues)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
2.	Member (Hydrology)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
3.	Member (Monitoring and Regulation)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
4.	Director (Finance)	Level-13 (Rs.123100-215900)	01

2. All other terms and conditions of the previous vacancy notice shall remain unchanged. The interested candidates who have not yet applied may submit their applications as per the procedure mentioned in the detailed vacancy notice available on the official website: **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in**. and **dopt.gov.in.**

sd/-
(Sameer Kumar Munda)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011-23716252
Email: use4-mowr@nic.in

[**Note:** The English version shall always prevail in case of any discrepancy or inconsistency between English version and its Hindi translation.]

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
(constituted under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956)
IRDAI Registration No. 512
Central Office: 'Yogakshema', Jeevan Bima Marg, Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400 021
Tel. No.: 022 – 2202 2079; e-mail: investors@licindia.com; website: www.licindia.in

NOTICE OF THE 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND E- VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that:

1. The 5th Annual General Meeting ("AGM" / "Meeting") of the Life Insurance Corporation of India ("LIC"/ "Corporation") will be held on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. (IST) through Video Conference ("VC") facility/ Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"), without physical presence of the members at a common venue, to transact the business as set out in the Notice of the 5th AGM, in compliance with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 ("LIC Act, 1956") read with rules and regulations made thereunder, Companies Act, 2013 (to the extent applicable) read with circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") in this regard from time to time and other applicable provisions, if any. The Central Office of the Corporation shall be the deemed venue for the 5th AGM.
2. Electronic copies of the Annual Report for the FY 2025-26 along with the Notice of the 5th AGM are being e-mailed to those members whose e-mail addresses were registered with their Depository Participant(s) ("DPs") or Registrar and Share Transfer Agent ("RTA") of the Corporation, i.e, Kfin Technologies Limited., as on June 25, 2026 and the letters providing weblink with exact path and QR code, to download and view the Notice of the 5th AGM and the Annual Report for the FY 2025-26, are being dispatched at the registered addresses of those members whose e-mail addresses were not registered with their DPs or RTA of the Corporation.
3. The Notice of the 5th AGM and the Annual Report for the FY 2025-26 are available on the website of the Corporation at www.licindia.in and on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, where the equity shares of the Corporation are listed. It is also available on the website of e-voting service provider, i.e., National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
4. Members holding shares either in physical mode or dematerialized mode, as on the cut-off-date, i.e., Tuesday, July 21, 2026, may cast their vote electronically on the business as set forth in the Notice of the 5th AGM through NSDL's remote e-voting facility. The voting rights of the members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Corporation. Members participating in the 5th AGM through VC facility/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 23A of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 read with rules and regulations made thereunder.
5. All members are informed that:
   (i) The business as set forth in the Notice of the 5th AGM shall be transacted through remote e-voting or e-voting at the AGM;
   (ii) Members, whose names appear in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the RTA/Depositories as on the cut-off date, i.e., Tuesday, July 21, 2026, shall only be entitled to vote on the resolutions as set out in the Notice;
   (iii) The remote e-voting facility will be available during the following dates and timelines:

Commencement of e-voting	**Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 09:00 a.m. (IST)**
Conclusion of e-voting	**Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 05:00 p.m. (IST)**

   (iv) Any person who becomes the member of the Corporation after dispatching the Notice of the 5th AGM and holds the shares as on the cut-off date, may follow the instructions given in Para 13 of the Notes of the Notice of AGM with respect to obtaining login ID and password to cast vote;
   (v) Members may note that:
      a) members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the 5th AGM may participate in the AGM through VC facility /OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again during the AGM through the e-voting system;
      b) members participating in the AGM who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting, shall be entitled to cast their vote through e-voting system during the AGM; and
      c) once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
   (vi) Members may follow the instructions given in Para 13 and 14 of the Notes of the Notice of the 5th AGM for joining AGM through VC facility /OAVM and remote e-voting.
   (vii) In case of any queries, members may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and the e-voting user manual for shareholders/members available at www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on **022 - 4886 7000** or send a request to **Mr. Sanjeev Yadav, (Deputy Manager, NSDL)** at evoting@nsdl.com;
   (viii) Members who wish to submit their questions regarding business as set out in the Notice of the 5th AGM and/or wish to express their views/ask questions as registered speaker during the 5th AGM may refer para 14 of the Notes of the Notice.
   (ix) The result of e-voting will be announced within two working days from the conclusion of the AGM, i.e., on or before July 29, 2026 and will be available on the website of the Corporation at www.licindia.in as well as on the website of the NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. It will also be placed on the websites of stock exchanges, i.e., at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

Final Dividend for the FY 2025-26

Members, please note that the Board of Directors of the Corporation in its meeting held on May 21, 2026, recommended a final dividend of ₹10/- per equity share of face value of ₹10/- each, subject to approval of the members in the 5th AGM. The record date for determining entitlement of members to the final dividend was Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Pursuant to Regulation 12 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, the Corporation is mandated to remit all dividend payments through electronic modes only. Consequently, physical pay-out options like dividend warrants or demand drafts have been entirely discontinued. Members are therefore requested to update/link their PAN, KYC and banking credentials (including Account Number, IFSC, and MICR code) to their respective folio(s) to receive future dividend pay-outs, if any.

For Life Insurance Corporation of India

Place: Mumbai
Date: July 03, 2026

Sd/-
(Anshul Kumar Singh)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

SWAMI VIVEKANAND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT, GOVT. OF INDIA)
OLATPUR, P.O.-BAIROI, DIST-CUTTACK-754010, ODISHA

RECRUITMENT NOTICE BY CONTRACT

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates through online mode for the following consultant posts for CRCSREs and CDEICs in the North Eastern Region, functioning under the administrative control of SVNIRTAR, Cuttack as per details given below:-

Ref. No.: AD 6B 19/06/2026 Dated: 01.07.2026
(Consultant posts for CRCSRE- Guwahati, Imphal & Shillong)

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Consolidated monthly remuneration (per month)	No. of posts & Name of the Centre
1	Associate Professor (Speech Language Pathology & Audiology) (Consultant)	Rs.80,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Guwahati
2	Associate Professor (Clinical Psychology) (Consultant)	Rs.80,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Shillong
3	Assistant Professor (Special Education) (Consultant)	Rs.75,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Shillong
4	Lecturer (Occupational Therapy) (Consultant)	Rs.60,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Shillong
5	Rehabilitation Officer (Consultant)	Rs.50,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Shillong
6	Prosthetist & Orthotist (Consultant)	Rs.50,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Shillong
7	Special Educators / Orientation & Mobility Instructor (Consultant)	Rs.50,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Shillong
8	Speech Pathologist/Audiologist Gr- II (Speech & Hearing) (Consultant)	Rs.40,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Guwahati
9	Assistant (Consultant)	Rs.45,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Guwahati
10	Accountant (Consultant)	Rs.45,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Imphal
11	Workshop Supervisor -cum- Store Keeper (Consultant)	Rs.35,000/-	01- CRCSRE, Guwahati

Ref. No.: AD6B37/07/2026 Date: 01.07.2026
(Consultant Posts for CDEICs of CRCSRE –Guwahati & Imphal)

1	Occupational Therapist (Consultant)	Rs.35,000/-	01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Imphal
2	Early Interventionist (Consultant)	Rs.35,000/-	01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Imphal
3	Special Educator (Mental Retardation/ Intellectual Disability) (Consultant)	Rs.35,000/-	01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Imphal
4	Special Educator (Visually Impaired) (Consultant)	Rs.35,000/-	(02 posts) 01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Guwahati 01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Imphal
5	Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologist (ASLP) (Consultant)	Rs.35,000/-	01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Guwahati
6	Nurse (Consultant)	Rs.30,000/-	01- CDEIC - CRCSRE, Guwahati

The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect can submit their application through online mode. The online registration of application will be made available on SVNIRTAR, Cuttack official Website i.e. **https://svnirtar.nic.in** or can directly visit the website **i.e.https://recruitment.svnirtar.in**. The link of submission of online application in respect of above said posts along with other relevant information will be activated on **10thJuly 2026 after 5:00 PM**. For all other details, terms and conditions, please visit to website **https://svnirtar.nic.in.**

-Sd/- Director

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FUTURE IS HERE

प्रथम तल, कॉमर्शियल कॉम्पलेक्स, ओमेगा–1 (पी–2), ग्रेटर नौएडा
Toll Free No. 18001808296 वेबसाइट : www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

Reference Number: Yea/plng/sm(p)/94/2026 **Dated: 03.07.2026**

Constituting Panel of Chartered Accountants for conducting Statutory Audit for development of International Film City in YEIDA

Detailed RFP document is available on the E-Procurement Portal of Government of UP **[https://etender.up.nic.in/]** from **07/07/2026**. The authority seeks Constituting Panel of Chartered Accountants for conducting Statutory Audit for development of International Film City in YEIDA.

Interested Applicants are required to submit their proposal online on the E-procurement website on or before **28/07/2026, 1700 hrs. (IST)**. In case of any queries, the Bidders are invited to contact on the following email id: **skbhatiapcs@gmail.com; yeida.planning@gmail.com**;

GM, Planning

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान के अतिरिक्त प्लॉटिंग / हाउसिंग / कॉलोनी या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से अवैध है। सामान्यजन इस प्रकार की खरीद–फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाइजर के भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट **www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com** देखें।

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

PHONE NO: (0240)-2333536-40,2348001-05(PBX); FAX-(0240)-2331213
Website:-http://www.aurangabadmahapalika.org/

No./CSMC/2026/25 **Date: 29/6/2026**

TENDER NOTICE (Second Call)
E-Tender Notice No. 2026_AMCA_1283163_2

Development of Commercial Complex (Shops & Offices), Banquet/ Exhibition Hall on Build Operate and Transfer Basis situated at CTS No.3208, Nehru Bhavan, Buddilane, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

Details Such as bid document last date of submission, date of Pre bid conference etc. will be available from 2/7/2026 from 17.00 hrs. On https://www.mahatenders.gov.in portal. All interested bidders may apply online through this portal.

Sr. No	Description	Details
1.	Name of Work	Development of Commercial Complex (Shops & Offices), Banquet Exhibition Hall on Build Operate and Transfer Basis for 30 years (extendable add on 30 years, total up to 60 years), situated at CTS No.3208, Nehru Bhavan, Buddilane, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.
2.	Department	Build Operate and Transfer (BOT)
3.	EMD (Online payment only)	Rs.40,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs only)
4.	Bid Validity	120 Days
5.	Form Fee (Online payment only)	Rs.11,800/- (Including GST)
6.	Time Limit of Work	12 Months
7.	Performance Bank Guarantee (For successful bidder only)	5% of Project cost in the form of Bank Guarantee of Nationalized bank
8.	Date & Time of Publishing/ Downloading of Tender	Dt.02/07/2026, Time17:00Hrs
9.	Date of pre-bid meeting	Dt.14/07/2026, Time 13:00Hrs
10.	Date & Time of Submitting the Tender	Dt.27/07/2026, Time17:30Hrs

Digitally signed by, Amol Jagannath Yedage
Commissioner, Municipal Corporation
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB 8/2025 (GROUP - D - RPC) **Date: 03.07.2026**
HCRB 9/2025 (GROUP - D - KKR)

BRIEF NOTIFICATION (REVISED)

Notification Nos. HCRB 8/2025 (Group-DRPC) and HCRB 9/2025 (Group D - KKR) Dated 22nd April, 2026 inviting applications through online from the eligible candidates to fill up 101 posts in multiple cadres of Group -D are revised in view of the Government Order No. SWD 515 PKV 2026 dated **08.05.2026.**

Revised Notifications Nos. HCRB 8/2025 (Group D-RPC) and HCRB 9/2025 (Group D-KKR), dated 2nd July, 2026 are issued inviting online applications for filling up of 106 posts [98 posts under Residual Parent Cadre including 01 Backlog post and 08 posts under Kalyana Karnataka Region] of Group D [i.e., Peons, Watchman, Sweepers, Peons (House Keeping), Lift Attender, Assistant Binder, Tailor and Dhobi] in the official website of High Court of Karnataka at judiciary.karnataka.gov.in. Pay scale for the posts of Peon, Watchman, Sweeper, Peon (House Keeping), Assistant Binder and Dhobi is **Rs.19,900/-Rs.63,200/-** and for Lift Attender and Tailor is **Rs. 21,700/- Rs. 69,100/-.** The closing date for submission of online application is **31st July, 2026, upto 11.59 p.m.** No other means / mode of applications will be accepted. The Revised Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (E-Gazette) of Karnataka.

Note: 1. The candidates who have submitted applications through online in pursuance to the Notification Nos. HCRB 8/2025 (Group D - RPC) and HCRB 9/2025 (Group - D-KKR) dated 22.04.2026 need not submit application afresh and pay application fee. However, they shall comply with the following instructions.

2. The candidates who have claimed the reservation under Scheduled Caste are instructed to furnish information in respect of their internal reservation (Category - A, B & C) and upload the Caste certificate mandatorily through the online link i.e., **https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.**

3. All the candidates shall furnish the details of additional qualification if any, other than S.S.L.C/10th standard and upload the relevant documents in the online link i.e., **https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.**

The candidates are informed that suppression of information with regard to higher qualification if any, other than S.S.L.C/10TH standard will attract penal consequences.

4. If candidates fail to furnish above informations, such applications will not be considered for further process.

Sd/- (M. CHANDRASHEKAR REDDY)
REGISTRAR GENERAL ,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/1459/Zen/2026-27

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RNT MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UDAIPUR (RAJ.)

RNT/Pur-III/F. 18/(e-Tendering proc)/2026-27/1387 **Dated:- 22 .06.2026**

Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2026-27

Bids for Man Power (High Skilled, Skilled, Semi Skilled and Unskilled worker) Tender for RNT Medical College & Attached Hospitals for One Year and Security Guard (Skilled worker) Tender for RNT Medical College & Attached Hospitals for One Year, are invited from interested bidders up to Date 16.07.2026 Time: -02.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. Total cost is Rs 5100.00 lac.

UBN- MCU2627SLOB00025, MCU2627SLOB00026

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

DIPR/C/11336/2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗ

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೌಧ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 001.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KPSCKA/ADMN/OUTS/10/2026-ADMN ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–07–2026.

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿ ಖಾಲಿಯಿರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆದುರಾಗಿ ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ನಮೂದು ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಭವ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KPSC/2026-27/SE0037) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–07–2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಗದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–30565802 ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ,
(ಸಹಿ/–)
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ(ಪ್ರ)
ಆಡಳಿತ ಶಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗ

ಪ.ಸಂ.ಸಂ:ಪ್ರ/ಪಪ್ರ/1472/ಆಶಾ/2026–27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare Services
Arogya soudha, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru- 560023.

No. DD/PC&PNDT/51/2023-24 **Date: 02-07-2026**

Walk-in- interview for post of Program Consultant (One Post) Under PCPNDT Act on contract basis is called on 14-07-2026.

Eligibility criteria for Program Consultant: - 1) Qualification: - MBBS / BDS, **2) Technical Skill: -**Excellent knowledge and advanced technology in computer , **3) Experience: -** Minimum 02Years experience in Health sector, **4) Upper age limit: -** up to 50yrs, **5) Remuneration: -** 50,000/- Per Month, **6) Selection process for post: -** Walk-in-Interview, **7)** Preference will be given for Immediate Joiners. **8)** Well verse in multiple languages and good communication skill.

Note:- The Documentation Verification will be done at **10:00 am to 1:00pm** on **14-07-2026** and Walk-in-Interview is arranged at **2:00pm to 4:00pm** on **14-07-2026** at office of Project Director, RCH, Health and family Welfare Services, 1st Floor, Arogya soudha, 1st Cross Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023. Interested candidates may attend with all original documents with one set of xerox copy at the time of interview.

Sd/-
Project Director (RCH), NHM
Health & Family Welfare Services

DIPR/CP/1461/Zen/2026-27

31001/48/2627

DIRECTORATE OF TEXTILES & HANDLOOM, ODISHA
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

AT PO: SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR -751007
Phone No.0674-2575783, Email: textiles.odisha@gov.in
No. 4892 /Dated the 02/07/2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

"FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED SILK SPINNING UNIT UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) MODE ON DESIGN, BUILT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBFOT) BASIS"

The Directorate of Textiles & Handloom, Odisha under the Handloom, Textiles, and Handicrafts Department, Government of Odisha invites proposals from prospective applicant (s) for Expression of Interest for selection of a Bidder for Development of an Integrated Silk Spinning Unit under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode on Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the EOI document.

The proposals should be submitted by the interested parties to the Director of Textiles, Directorate of Textiles & Handlooms, Odisha at Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007, Odisha on or before **05.08.2026 upto 05:00 PM**. The detailed EOI may be downloaded from the e-tender **portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app**, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department website: **https://handloom.odisha.gov.in** and Directorate website: **http://textiles.odisha.gov.in**

Further details about the project and submissions are available in the EoI document. Interested firms are requested to download the EoI document from the e-Procurement portal of Government of Odisha **https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app**. The last date for submission of EoI by interested firms is **05.08.2026 upto 05:00 PM**.

For further information, please contact http://textiles.odisha.gov.in or call at +91 9937267419

OIPR-31001/31003/1/26-27/0006

32001/477/2627

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
O/O THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
RENGALI RIGHT IRRIGATION CIRCLE, CHOUDWAR

Email- acerricchoudwar@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No ACERRICC-01/2026-27

The Additional Chief Engineer, Rengali Right Irrigation Circle, Choudwar, Cuttack on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites **on line percentage rate bids** in double cover system for construction of the work as detailed below:

1. Name of the work : 03 Nos. of Civil works
2. Tender Cost : 169.31 lakh to 638.45 lakh
3. Bid Document Cost : 10,000.00 (on line) for each work
4. Bid Security : Varies from Rs 169313.00 to Rs.638455.00 (on line)
5. Class of Contractor : 'B' 'A' and 'Special' Class
6. Period of Completion : Varies from 9 to15 calendar months
7. Other details are as follows :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
		From	To	
Additional Chief Engineer, RRIC, Choudwar	ACERRICC-01/2026-27 to ACERRICC-03/2026-27	07.07.2026 10.00 AM	27.07.2026 5.00 PM	28.07.2026 11.00 AM

8. For further details and on-line bidding, visit Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Rengali Right Irrigation Circle
Choudwar

OIPR-32001/32419/1/26-27/0001

13001/1053/2627

COMPREHENSIVE REGION URBAN TRANSPORT
Govt. Of Odisha

Plot No. 548/1452, Kalarahanga, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751031
Odisha, Phone No. 0674-3501580
E-Mail Id: crutbbsr@gmail.com

No. 1791 **Date. 01.07.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

BID IDENTIFICATION No. 1791/G.M (Engg.)/CRUT of 2026-27

General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar on behalf of CRUT invites percentage rate bids in **DOUBLE COVER SYSTEM** conforming to the Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) from Electrical Contractors having valid H.T. license registered under Government of Odisha and having PAN, GSTIN Certificate and valid EPF & ESI registration certificate with up to date payment till May' 2026 for the item of works as indicated in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 3 X 2000 KVA 33/0.4KV transformer to effect power supply 4320 KW/6000KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar. (Under P.M e- Bus Seva)	Rs. 2,90,57,999.00	H.T License	1% of the Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST	90 (Ninety days)
2.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 3 X 2000 KVA 33/0.4KV transformer to effect power supply 4320 KW/6000KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Naraj, Cuttack. (Under P.M e-Bus Seva)	Rs. 2,90,57,999.00	H.T License	1% of the Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST	90 (Ninety days)
3.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 3 X 2000 KVA 33/0.4KV transformer to effect power supply 4320 KW/6000KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Chhend Rourkela. (Under P.M e-Bus Seva)	Rs. 2,23,57,999.00	H.T License	1% of the Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST	90 (Ninety days)
4.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 2 X 1600 KVA 33/0.4KV conventional on load tap changing Substation to effect power supply 2300 KW/3200KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Modipada Sambalpur. (Under P.M e-Bus Seva)	Rs. 1,38,22,397.00	H.T License	1% of the Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST	60 (Sixtydays)
5.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 2 X 1600 KVA 33/0.4KV conventional on load tap changing Substation to effect power supply 2300 KW/3200KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Haldipadar, Berhampur. (Under P.M e-Bus Seva)	Rs. 1,68,72,397.00	H.T License	1% of the Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST	60 (Sixty days)

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** from **06.07.2026 to 5.30 P.M. of 24.07.2026.**
2. Bids shall be received only **"On line"** on or before **5.30 P.M. of 24.07.2026.** The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
4. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.
5. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation shall only be uploaded in the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar
(On behalf of CRUT, Bhubaneswar)

OIPR-13001/13183/1/26-27/0002

25001/632/2627

E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

No.2304 // **Dt. 02.07.2026**

Cancellation of Tender for Bridge works

The tender for the work (1) Construction of Bridge over Uttarash Nallah on Kirtanpur Rangamatia Via-Sagabari road in the district of Dhenkanal under SBY for the year 2025-26, (2) Construction of Bridge over Joda Nallah on Tumusinga - Khandabandha road in the district of Dhenkanal under SBY for the year 2025-26, (3) Construction of Bridge over Sana Nallah on Ghagaramunda - Cheptapasi road in the district of Dhenkanal under SBY for the year 2025-26, BID ID No.Bridge Online-AGL-10/2026-27 invited by the Procurement officer, Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul are hereby cancelled on Administrative ground.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Angul

OIPR-25001/25180/1/26-27/0012

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)

Uttarakhand Simply Heaven

Pandit Deendayal Upadhayay Paryatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Helipad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Derhadun - 248003 (UK)
Ph. 0135-2559898, Fax 135-2559988

Ref. No. 1987/2-7-1035/2026-27 Dated: 03 July, 2026

SELECTION OF A TRAINING AGENCY FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION,WILDERNESS MEDICINE & GUIDE CAPACITY BUILDING

Details may be obtained on website: uktenders.gov.in from 3:00 PM on 04.07.2026. **Pre-bid meeting will be held at 12:30 PM on 13.07.2026.** Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till 3:00 PM on 08.07.2026 through E-mail: **adventurewingutdb@gmail.com** with CC to **procurement.utdb@gmail.com.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded on **uktenders.gov.in.** Proposals must be submitted online through **uktenders.gov.in** only. The last date for submission of proposals is **27.07.2026 till 3:00 PM.**

Chief Executive Officer

34001/431/2627

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No.B-IV-H-(H&D)-39/2026 No. 23306 Dt. 30th June, 2026

Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-II-23/2026-27

1.	The Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Works Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System in D.H.H. Malkangiri in the district of Malkangiri during 2025-26.
3.	No. of work	:	01 No.
4.	Bid Cost.	:	Rs. 10,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Specialized agency MOU with electrical contractor having valid MV/HT or above license from ELBO.
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.08.07.2026 to 17:00 hours of dt.23.07.2026.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.24.07.2026 at 11:30 AM.
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.		

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c),
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0039

11001/188/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Lokaseva Bhavan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001
Phone: 0674-2390154 | Website: https://dhe.odisha.gov.in
Mail: sectionithed@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-III

The tender for the development of 83 digital application modules was published on the Department's official website and in two leading newspapers each in Odia and English on 04.06.2026. Subsequently, the last date for submission of bid documents was extended up to 03.07.2026 vide Department Letter No. 34572/HE, dated 25.06.2026. It is hereby notified that **the last date and time for submission of bid documents is further extended up to 07.07.2026, 5 PM**. Tenders received after the stipulated date and time shall not be entertained.

For more details like corrigendum, clarification etc. concerning to the bidding, visit our official website **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in.**

NOTE- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Bids must be sent via speed/Registered Post/Courier to:

Additional Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001 Or by E-mail: **sectionithed@gmail.com**

OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0021

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018.

No: EE/CRP/KPPP/TEND/07/2026-27 **Date: 03-07-2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC, Bengaluru, invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in GBA / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Completion of BBMP Building and Improvements, Developmental Works to Roads, Drains, Market Complex, Bus Stop in Ward No. 153, 155 and 157 of Chamarajpet Division. **(Package-1) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1850.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 18.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**
2	Improvements and Development Works to Roads, Drains, Burial Grounds / Crematoriums, Parks, Playgrounds and Other Allied Works in J.J.R. Nagara and Chamarajpet Sub Division. **(Package-2) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 2050.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**
3	Construction of Multipurpose Building at Ward No. 153, Padarayanapura and Reconstruction of Community Hall at Ward No. 155, Devaraj URS Nagara in Chamarajpet Division. **(Package-3) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1300.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 13.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**
4	Construction of School Building, Community Buildings and Samudhaya Bhavana (Phase-2) at Rayapura in Ward No. 154 and 155 and Completion Works to Existing Administrative Building at Lingayat Burial Ground in Ward No. 159, Azadnagara of Chamarajpet Division. **(Package-4) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1050.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**
5	Reclamation of Historical Kempegowda Tower, Improvement Works to BBMP Girls College Auditorium and Construction of Multipurpose Building in Koti Park along with Allied Works in Ward No. 153 & 158 of Chamarajpet Division. **(Package-5) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**
6	Asphalting and Other Necessary Improvements to BGS Flyover and Improvements to Ward Roads & Drains in K.R. Market Jurisdiction of Chamarajpet Division. **(Package-6) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1150.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 11.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**
7	Completion Works Viz., Electrification, Water and Sanitary Supply, Lift and Other Facilities for Rayapuram Referral Hospital Ward No. 154, Rayapuram. **(Package-7) - Estimated Amount (Including GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1500.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 15.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG / FDR)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 08-07-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **10-07-2026 at 11.30 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Central, Zone-2), Annex-3, GBA Head Office, Bengaluru - 560001. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted Online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 18-07-2026. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division on 20-07-2026 at 11.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid (If Possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC.

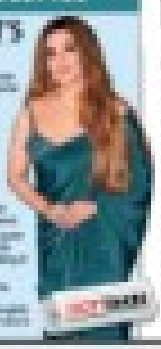
So... did you ever finish watching that show?

Admitting you've dropped a much-loved show feels like social embarrassment

Bille August to direct Armani biopic, brand distances itself

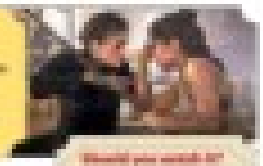
NEED HELP DECIDING WHAT TO WATCH? WE'VE GOT YOU

RAKHI SAWANT'S OTT recommendations



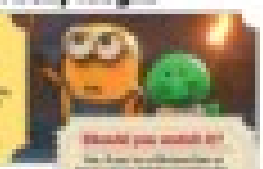
FILM REVIEWS

Alia Bhatt fights hard, but this action entertainer does not



Huma Qureshi's bitwoman act powers this taut neo-noir thriller

This Minions installment is more bananas than belly laughs

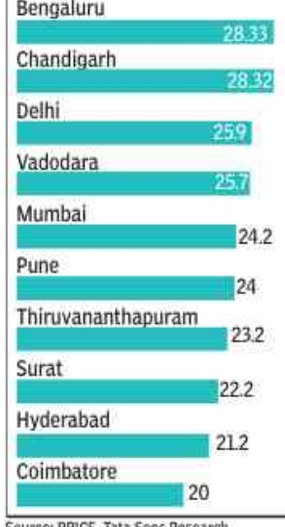


OTT REVIEWS

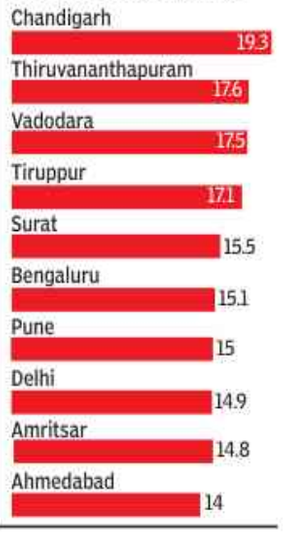
The third instalment is a mixed bag!

WHO SAVES, WHO SPENDS

BENGALURU TOPS ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME
Average household income (2025-26 estimates, ₹lakh)



CHANDIGARH LEADS ON CONSUMPTION
Consumption expenditure per household (2025-26, ₹lakh)



Source: PRICE, Tata Sons Research

Top 100 cities drive a third of India's income

▶ Continued from page 1

The report, 'Many Urban Indias', by PRICE's Rajesh Shukla, and Tata Sons' Rupa Purushothaman and Vishal Vaibhaw, has estimated data for 2025-26 on the basis of household-level microdata from the four PRICE's ICEO 360-degree surveys between 2014 and 2023 and supplemented it with numbers from govt surveys.

It estimated that India's top 100 cities account for less than a fifth of the population but generate over a third of the income and account for 31% of the consumption. It has classified cities into Big Six (over 10 million population with average annual income of Rs 23 lakh), Boomtowns (such as Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Surat and Pune that are home to 2.5-10 million population and average income is Rs 17 lakh), Breakout Cities (1.5-2.5 million population and Rs 14 lakh annual income) and Frontier Cities (0.5-1.5 million population and Rs 12 lakh average income).

The report said that the share of middle-income households (Rs 6-36 lakh) has nearly doubled from 29% to 53% in the past decade, and by 2030, they are projected to be 60% in the top 100 cities. Currently, Hyderabad has the highest proportion.

When it comes to high-income (over Rs 36 lakh), their share has increased from 3% to 12% in the last 10 years and is likely to near 20% by 2030. While Delhi, Mumbai and Pune are on top, cities like Raipur, Thoothukudi and Kannur are among the fastest growing not only in this segment, but also among middle-income households.

Meta faces govt heat over ads on Instagram

New Delhi: Govt is set to summon Meta after reports alleged that paid advertisements on Instagram were used to promote child sexual abuse material in India, with IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw directing MeitY officials to seek a formal explanation from the company, sources said Friday.

Officials said MeitY will ask Meta to explain how such advertisements were cleared by Instagram's review systems, what checks were carried out before they went live, and what action has been taken after the matter was flagged. The ministry is also expected to ask the company for details of its ad-screening mechanism and safeguards to prevent recurrence.

This follows a BBC investigation which claimed that Instagram had shown paid promotions in India using explicit terms and links leading users to Telegram channels where child sexual abuse material was allegedly being sold. The report said the ads appeared on an India-based account and that promotions had passed Instagram's moderation systems before being displayed.

Meta said it had disabled multiple ads and accounts, blocked violating URLs and stressed that it has a "zero tolerance policy for soliciting or sharing CSAM, including in ads."

Responding to the BBC investigation, a Meta spokesperson told TOI the company uses "advanced AI technology to proactively detect violating content and individuals."

Cong MP's meet with Shah sparks buzz amid party turmoil in Punjab

Vinod.Kumar3
@timesofindia.com

Chandigarh: Congress' Gurdaspur MP **Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa** on Friday met Union home minister Amit Shah in the backdrop of turmoil with the party's Punjab unit following the announcement of election-related organisational appointments.

Randhawa was appointed chairman of the state unit's core committee but has neither publicly reacted to it nor lauded the leadership, fuelling speculation that he was unhappy with the decisions.

Speculation grew so intense that the former Punjab deputy CM had to issue a statement to "refute the mischievous political slant" being given to the meeting, saying it was scheduled earlier in connection with his representation on the "deterioration of law and order in Punjab".

Coming out in Randhawa's defence, former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot said attempts to give a political colour to the meeting were "highly regrettable and inappropriate". In a social media post, Gehlot said Randhawa, AICC's Rajasthan in-charge, belonged to one of Punjab's most respected political families.

During the meeting with Shah, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa handed over a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his urgent intervention in the "catastrophic deterioration" of law and order in Punjab's international border belt.

Channi move mirrors strategy of Captain & Co in summer of 2015

IP.Singh@timesofindia.com

Jalandhar: The goings on in Punjab Congress — former CM **Charanjit Singh Channi**'s supporters rallying around him and openly opposing state chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring — are reminiscent of what happened exactly 11 years ago, when a large group rallied behind Captain Amarinder Singh, and joined the chorus to make him state party president and CM face.

At that time, Partap Singh Bajwa was president while Amarinder was deputy leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, having shot to prominence by defeating BJP stalwart Arun Jaitley from Amritsar despite the Modi wave in the 2014 parliamentary elections. Channi became a major beneficiary of Amarinder's campaign as he was made Congress Legislature Party leader in the reshuffle a few months later, replacing Sunil Jakhar, who was batting for Amarinder, for the sake of factional balance.

The major difference is that Amarinder and his supporters had timed their move well before the 2017 election while Channi and his associates have started their move with only 7-8 months left before the polls.

Indus Treaty grants eastern rivers to India

▶ Continued from page 1

The World Bank-brokered IWT allocates the eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej) to India and the western rivers (Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum) to Pakistan, with some provisions for India to use the western rivers for limited irrigation and non-consumptive uses like power generation.

Speaking at an "international seminar" on IWT on Wednesday, Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar said India's stand amounted to "weaponisation of water" and could have serious implications for regional peace and security. The seminar was also addressed by PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto who likened India's decision to pause the IWT to blocking of Strait of Hormuz. Randhir Jaiswal asserted that the talks with Pakistan cannot resume until it stopped supporting terrorism.

BJP slams Oppn letter to CJI on SIR

New Delhi: BJP Wednesday lashed out at opposition parties over their letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant over SIR, saying it is a "dangerous conspiracy" to malign the Indian democracy and spread anarchy by targeting institutions. "With this, they have made another unsuccessful attempt to attack democracy," party spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters.

In Karnataka, CM D K Shivakumar is asking Congress workers to participate "actively and promptly" in the SIR process, while the party is simultaneously "casting aspersions" on the very same, he added. TNN

Oppn asks CJI Kant to suspend SIR of poll rolls

Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Claiming that democracy is in "jeopardy" because BJP govt is "manipulating" elections with help of a "biased" Election Commission, joint opposition has urged CJI Surya Kant to suspend SIR of electoral rolls, arguing it should be done five years before an assembly election.

The opposition also raised questions about EVMs and sought serious consideration to restore voting by ballot papers, while alleging that polls in Delhi, Maharashtra and Haryana were manipulated.

INDIA bloc, in its letter to CJI on June 28, stated it would not have written to him but has been forced by the circumstances.

In a detailed list of its grievances — SIR to "favour BJP", "misuse of agencies to manipulate polls", and appointment of election commissioners — it hinted it has hit a wall with BJP govt and the letter to the topmost judge is its last resort. SIR process was upheld by Supreme Court in May as it observed that the exercise advances the constitutional imperative of free and fair elections.

HC fines MEA, MHA officers

Chennai: Madras HC imposed Rs 50,000 cost on two joint secretaries in MEA and MHA for failing to assist it in connection with a habeas corpus plea moved by the son of an Indian convicted in a narcotics case in Sri Lanka and later repatriated to India. A division bench of Justice Anita Sumanth and Justice Sunder Mohan passed the order on a plea moved by Mohamed Sameer seeking to produce his dad, Zahir Hussain. TNN

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: ECN-02-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Electrical	Rs. 1,28,26,370/-

Arrangements for extension of dedicated 11 KV HT Feeder additionally as per BESCOM directives for facilitating reliable power supply at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal - Baiyyapanahalli, Bengaluru (SMVB).

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 22.07.2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ TRD-II/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/251/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग वृत टोंक
Email:- sephedtonk@gmail.com
क्रमांक वृत टोंक/निविदा/2026-27/2230 - 37 दिनांक: 19.06.2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 से 02/2026-27
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्नलिखित निर्माण / आपूर्ति कार्य हेतु सक्षम श्रेणी में मान्यता प्राप्त पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निविदा संख्या 01-02/2026-27 हेतु दिनांक 22.06.2026 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 06.07.2026 सायं 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
NIB No. - PHE2627A1118

NIT No.	UBN No.	NIT No.	UBN No.
01/2026-27	PHE2627WSOB02203	02/2026-27	PHE2627WSOB02204

अधीक्षण अभियंता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग
वृत टोंक।
DIPR/C/11381/2026

बीकानेर नगर निगम
नगर निगम मार्ग, बीकानेर (राजस्थान) फैक्स :– 0151–2226906, फोन :– 0151–2226902, 0151–2226905
E-Mail Address :- nagarnigambikaner@gmail.com, Web Site :- www.bikanermc.org
Sr.No./SBM_C&TMSW_West/2026-27/5045 Date:-30.06.2026
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB NO 43/2026-27 Date 30.06.2026
(UBN Number DLB2627SLOB09141)
Online bids are invited electroically on behalf of the Municipal Corporation Bikaner for the work Procurement of Service For Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Concessionaire for Integrated Solid Waste Management Services Including Collection and Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste in Bikaner (West Constituency)of Nagar Nigam Bikaner", from enlisted /eligible bidders of appropriate class of the department organization, latest up to 3 PM on 22.07.2026
The complete Bidding Document may be seen or downloaded from the website of State Public Procurement Portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, e-procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **https://bikanermc.org/**.
Tender Costt: 41.47 Cr. **Commissioner**
Raj.Samwad/C/26/6205 **Bikaner Municipal Corporation**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 14 UBL 2026-27 of 25.06.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Hubballi Division: Gadag-Hotgi (GDG-HG) Section:** CTR (P) of Rd-1 Loop Line in Vijayanagar (BJP) Yard.	Rs. 55,67,858.00
2	**Hubballi Division:** Proposed construction of Gangtool cum Rest rooms (05 Nos.) at Bammapur Railway Station (BMPA), Hubballi (UBL), Navalur (NVU), Dandeli Railway Station (DED), Km. 13/400 at LC-11 between Alnawar-Dandeli (LWR-DED).	Rs. 81,73,719.00
3	**Hubballi Division:** Provision of Tactile path in stations under Sr. Divisional Engineer/East/Jurisdiction.	Rs. 1,75,19,578.00
4	**Hubballi Division:** Supply of Water Can to Level Crossing gates and gang units under Asst. Divisional Engineer/Central Jurisdiction (Total 33 Gang Units and 38 gates) for 24 months.	Rs. 22,88,169.00
5	**Hubballi Division:** Proposed Construction of Garage shed in Brook Road Colony at Hubballi.	Rs. 37,14,279.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 27.07.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/251/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/Hubballi**
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Issue of Fly Ash from NTPC Khargone to MSEs (Micro and Small Enterprises) and local Users
EOI No. NTPC/Khargone/AU/Fly Ash/MSE/2026 **Date: 04/07/2026**
NTPC Khargone located at Village: Selda, Dist.-Khargone, MP-451113 invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from MSEs (Micro and Small Enterprises), Local MSEs/Local Users (located within a radius of 100 KMs from NTPC Khargone) engaged in ash-based product manufacturing, for allocation of Fly Ash on Pro-rata basis at concessional rates with transportation cost to be borne by User agencies.
Quantity: Expected Dry Fly Ash - 1.34 LMT, Rate: Rs. 134.55 / MT, Duration: One year,
How to apply: Interested Dry Fly Ash users are requested to submit their EOI duly filled in the standard format and general information for EOI available at website https://ntpctender.ntpc.co.in to the address mentioned below on or Before 17:00 hrs. of 13/07/2026.
Application for EOI may be sent physically or via mail to **Ash Management Department, NTPC Khargone, Village: Selda, Dist.-Khargone, MP-451113, Email:** aukhargone@ntpc.co.in, vikaskmeena@ntpc.co.in
Contact Nos: 9650993988/8351803415

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot
Tel Phone.: 08354-235042
E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com, Fax: 08354-235043
No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-1/5054/Tender/2026-27/1138 Date: 02-07-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System) (KW-3 & 4 Bid Document)
Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.
Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-4 through Public electronic Tendering System (E-Tender from Class- 1,2,3 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD, Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.
Tender Called for 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೀಳಗಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ Scheme Under Work Indent NO: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 27364, 27363, 27365, 22912/CALL-2, 24119/CALL-3, 22138/CALL-5, 22510/CALL-2, 24845/CALL-2, ಇದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (**ರೂ.60.00 ದಿಂದ 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು**), ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ, read as below.

Calendar of event		
1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	Date:03.07.2026 to 24.07.2026 at 5.30pm
2	Pre-Bid meeting Date	Date:21.07.2026 at 11.00am
3	Opening of Technical Bid Date	Date:28.07.2026 at 11.00am
4	Opening of Financial Bid Date	Technical Bid Approved.

Note:- More details can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. **Phone no: 08354-23504**
DIPR/Bagalkot/124/ Deshpandepublicity/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Expression of Interest to invited from agencies/ companies/ individuals / firms/ proprietors / NGOs etc. for seeking Sponsorships to carry out three day activities during the 39th Chrysanthemum Show 2026 and 55th Rose Festival 2027. Detailed terms and conditions are available at website **mcchandigarh.gov.in.** In case of any queries, please contact Landline No. 0172-5039524, 0172-5021628. Last date of submission of EOI is **17.07.2026 upto 12.00 Noon.**
Executive Engineer
Horticulture Division No.2, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU-01
No.HCC/HCRB-18/2022 **Date: 03.07.2026**
E-Comp.No.12,
File No.HCKBLR-HCC/2/2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The High Court of Karnataka invites tender for hiring/availing the services of Manpower to be deployed in the High Court of Karnataka through outsourcing agency of Manpower Human Resources through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Centre for e-Governance, Bengaluru.
The last date to upload the tender is fixed as **15.07.2026 at 4:00 p.m.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/live** website.
Sd/- Manjunath Narayan Bhat Registrar (Computers)
DIPR/CP/MAA/26–27

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 22265383
website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-05/435/2026-27 **Date : 03.07.2026**
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Portal Only)
Item rate Tenders are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:
Name of the work : (1) Construction of Compound Wall Adjacent to Nagasamudhra Village and sinking of Borewell and repairs to pipeline in Narasapura Industrial Area, Gadag District. (2) Reconstruction of Road, RCC Drain and RCC Box Culvert at Basavakalyan Industrial Area, Bidar District. (3) Formation of 24M Wide Road of Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains with Pedestrian Footpath, Connecting the Airport directly from to NH-50 in Vijayapura Taluk & District.
Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Scheduled of date are as follows:
Last date for submission of Tender: **21-07-2026 up to 4.00 pm.**
Sd/- Chief Engineer-2 K.I.A.D.B, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1477/AKAR/2026-27

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller's Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR UPSC MAINS SUPPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2026-27
Online Application
Applications are called for UPSC Mains supporting program at Flaviant Network Pvt. Ltd., (Forum IAS), Chandra Layout, Bengaluru for the students belonging to religious minority community for the year 2026-27.
Timeline
Date for submission of applications starts from: 04.07.2026
Last date for submission of applications: 10.07.2026
Eligibility
- Students must be residence of Karnataka State.
- Students must be belonging to religious minority community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi).
- Students must be cleared UPSC Preliminary Exam 2026.

Instructions for Applicants
- Applicants are advised the application form available on the website of the Directorate of Minorities at: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in/ Google link https://forms.gle/hjnh8HwpBuTHyYmc9** and submit the application as per the guidelines.
- For more details contact your concerned District Minority Officer, Minority Welfare Department and also contact Helpline Number: 8277799990.

Date: 04.07.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Director Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1471/MAA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
POONAMALLEE MUNICIPALITY
Roc No: 1787/2025/E1 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 22.06.2026
Form of contract : Item rate (Two cover system)
Bids are invited by the Commissioner, Poonamallee Municipality or his authorized person for **Providing Project Management Consultancy Service for Implementing UGSS Collection System in Poonamallee Municipality** at an estimate cost-**Rs.255.84 Lakhs** under KfW assisted SMIF-TN-III through online only. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender and Processing fee for the package will be paid. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from engineering section of this office on all working days during office hours. The EMD and Tender Should be submitted through online only, Delay will not be accepted. Commissioner reserves right to accept or reject or cancel the tender without assign, other details are in Tender Notice

Important dates		
1.	Bid document download from	06.07.2026 at 10.00 AM Onwards
2.	Date and time of Pre bid meeting (In Poonamallee Municipality, Commissioner Chamber)	15.07.2026 at 11.00 AM
3.	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	24.07.2026upto 3.00 PM
4.	Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission)	24.07.2026upto 3.00 PM
5.	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	24.07.2026 at 3.30 PM

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Date of opening of Price bid will be informed after scrutinizing the Technical bid to the eligible bidders.
DIPR/2202/TENDER/2026 **Commissioner, Poonamallee Municipality.**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2			
1.	Raising Kerb & Channel and Road Marking Work (Part-B) under the Work of Re-Carpeting of Various Roads falling under Road Sub Division No. 7, M.C., Chandigarh (V-4 Road Sector 33, V-5 Road Sector 32, V-5 Road Sector 33, V-6 Roads Sector 31 C&D, V-6 Roads Sector 33 C&D, Various Parkings Sector 32 & 33, SDM Road, Centra Mall Road and Mango Garden Road) Est. Cost : Rs. 139.86 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 2,79,725/- Time Limit: 06 Months	06.07.2026 To 20.07.2026 upto 12.00 noon	20.07.2026 at 12.00 noon
2.	Re-carpeting of various Road and Parking under jurisdiction of Road Sub Division No. 5 M.C, Chandigarh Financial Year 2026-27 (Raising Kerb/Channel Work). Est. Cost : Rs. 84.49 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 1,68,985/- Time Limit : 06 Months	06.07.2026 To 20.07.2026 upto 12.00 noon	20.07.2026 at 12.00 noon
3.	Providing & Fixing of 60mm thick paver blocks in Shivalik Enclave Sector 13 NAC Manimajra Est. Cost : Rs. 126.31 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 2,52,611/- Time Limit : 03 Months	06.07.2026 To 20.07.2026 upto 12.00 noon	20.07.2026 at 12.00 noon

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.2, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh,

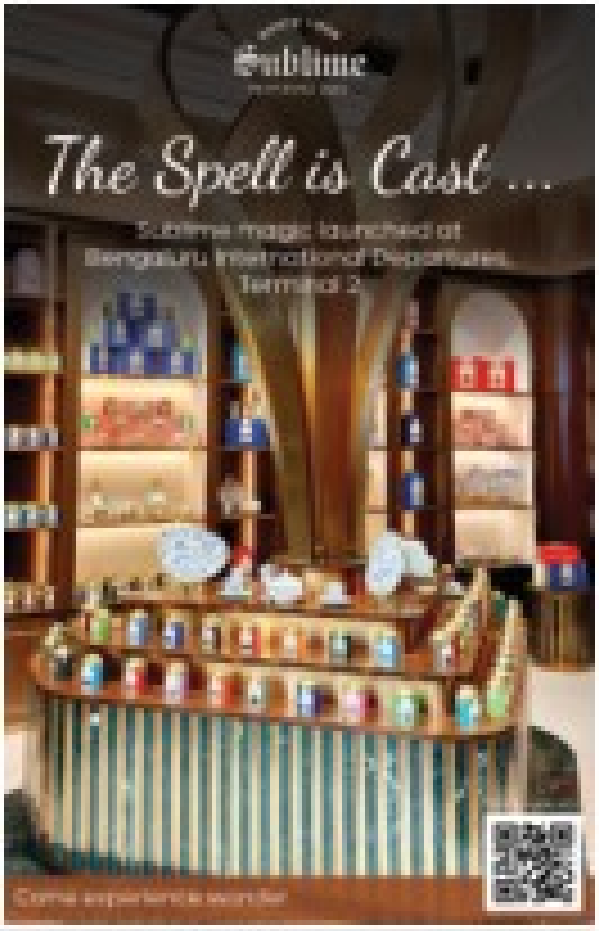
Government of Tamil Nadu
MSME DEPARTMENT
Office of the Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce / Managing Director, Bureau for Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu (FaMeTN), SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Applications are invited for the post of Business Facilitation Officer in the districts of Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai and Hosur for the O/o Industries Commissioner & Director of Industries and Commerce.

Sl.	Authority and official Website	Recruitment details
1.	General Manager, FaMeTN (https://www.fametn.com/careers)	Detailed notification including eligibility criteria such as qualifications, age limit, experience, job description and skill requirements is available on FaMeTN's official website. Interested candidates are advised to submit their applications online through the official website of FaMeTN. After the initial screening and evaluation, shortlisted candidates will be called for a physical interview. The date time and venue of the interview will be announced shortly. Further notifications and communication will be published only on the official website. Candidates are advised to regularly check the website for updates.

DIPR/586/DISPLAY/2026 **GM, FaMeTN MSME Department**

6001/64/2627
The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO. : 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail Id : omfed@yahoo.com
www.omfed.com
E-Tender
OMFED invites item rate bids in Double cover in on-line mode system from experienced "C & above" class contractors towards "Architectural, Interior Design, Repair and Renovation work of existing MM, PROJECT, CSS and FINANCE Division with Officer Chamber at Omfed Corporate Office, Sahidnagar, BBSR, Khurda." Interested bidders may download the Tender Document from The OMFED website **www.omfed.com** only for reference. Bid document will be available in the **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** from 10.00 AM of 04/07/2026 to 11:00 AM of 27/07/2026 for bidding. The technical Bid shall be opened at 03.00 PM on 27/07/2026 at the OMFED Corporate Office in the presence of the interested bidders. The corrigendum/amendment to this notice if required shall be published only in the OMFED website **www.omfed.com.** The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.
Sd/- **Managing Director**
OIPR-6001/6063/1/26-27/0034

Nimbooda lyrics in Odisha Class 5 notebook sparks row



DAMRO
Internationally Trusted Furniture
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SALE
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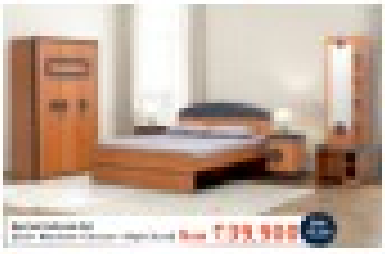
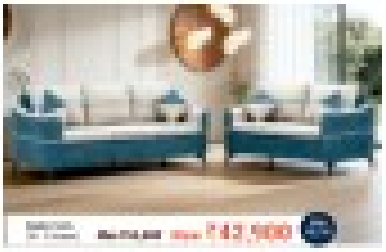
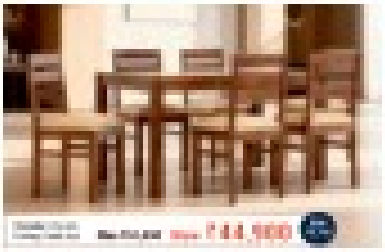






TIMES evoke

US & US: WHAT AMERICA@250 REFLECTS

It's the 4th of July — happy birthday, US of A! There is perhaps no country more contradictory than the US, shaped together by pride, prejudice and possibility. America's very origins stand in the teasing tides of hope — it welcomed migrants, many finding economic opportunity and social dignity on its shores. However, even as the world's tired and poor breathed free, America kept a cruelly captured class of African-American slaves, unpaid and unrecognised, enriching its factories and plantations. America shows a moral ark, evolving from the bitter pathos of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' to the triumph of its 44th President Barack Obama. The intervening era saw America search its soul — and find it.

America's heart has shown itself in other ways too. Consider its energising women's liberation movement and its environmental campaigns which looked deep into the smog, asking if unending growth was worth it. As it evolved, America's people became that unusual site where heady philosophy and grounding science can meet — US ironies continued as the world's largest historical emitter also became a champion of scientific organisations, illuminating, via data-based precision, exactly how humans are wrecking our planet.

Perhaps one feature stood steadfast in American life — its belief in capitalism. The market, with its broad equality and careful rules, bore the test of time — while a weary Soviet Union finally crumpled, America celebrated its freedom with open markets that encouraged investment and innovation. Democracy and dollars intertwined — but, in a trademark US twist, that too became a chokehold. The market grew into a gargantuan 'military-industrial complex' which decides when the world's most heavily-armed superpower leaps into war — citizens seeking peace are increasingly marginalised before a battle-thirsty behemoth, marching to the soundless swish of cryptocurrency. American media also plays a seminal role in the republic's life — while some parts twist public favour towards tyrants, others remain a voice of courage and conscience, highlighting the infractions producing a Disunited States.

All these ironies hold lessons for others — as that American icon 'Spiderman' put it pithily, with great power comes great responsibility. In our times, this means tackling climate change, democratic erosions and war with honesty. India is both a modern economic power and an ancient democracy. As TE's global experts point out, us observing the US can only help the world. Join Times Evoke in wishing the USA happy birthday — for all its nightmarish contradictions, between Broadway and bombs, it's still the only country with a 'dream' named after it.

'From ending slavery to demanding climate action, US movements changed the world'

__Michael Kazin__ is Professor of History at Georgetown University. Speaking with __Srijana Mitra Das__ at Times Evoke, he outlines the rich social movements which shaped America — and their future path:

Photos: Getty Images & iStock

DEFINING THE 20TH CENTURY: From US science and technology landing the first human on the moon (L) to the aesthetics of Central Park (R) being globally recognised, America shaped much of modern life — will it still play that role or be replaced?

Which social movements have been most important in America?

■ First, I'd point to the greatest event in US history, the American Civil War, a battle about whether slavery could exist. This was extremely important as the United States was one of the few societies in the world that didn't just 'have slaves' — it was a slave society. The issue of enslavement and then, rights for African Americans has been central in US political history. The Black Freedom Movement has been the most contentious and consequential struggle in America because it did help end slavery and the discriminatory laws against integrating public facilities, voting rights, etc.

Further, the United States had possibly the strongest feminist movement globally in the 20th century — that impacted the entire world. Other movements had their apexes at different times. The labour movement in the 1930s to 1950s had about a third of the labour force involved — now, as unions decline, it's down to 10%. The prohibition movement was very successful for a while — it actually amended the Constitution in 1919, abolishing a major business. That got repealed in 1933 but it showed the strength of evangelical Protestantism in American history. There was the environmental movement too, a forerunner in this country, and struggles for LGBTQ rights as well.

You mentioned feminism and the climate movement — is Donald Trump's victory now a negation of these?

■ There's a deeper history there. What happened in the 1960s was very tumultuous in many ways, with anti-Vietnam War protests, the Black Freedom Movement, feminism, LGBTQ campaigns and the environmental movement. All of these also provoked a large backlash against liberalism — the energies Donald Trump has harnessed are part of this older backlash. Trump successfully mobilised those discontents, appealing primarily to white Christian voters, people whose grandparents even were uncomfortable with those movements.

AMAZING JOURNEY: Rosa Parks' 1955 bus ride ignited the issue of racial equality

US AT HOME

A lot of what happened the 1960s onwards was very radical in America — that includes the idea that women should have the same jobs as men, same-sex relations should be as legal as heterosexual ones and black people, kept down for centuries, could have the same rights as whites. Similarly, the idea that economic growth under capitalism could damage Earth was groundbreaking. There's been a backlash to all that.

Trump's core supporters in the MAGA movement wish the America they remember was around and think their country was destroyed by the left and the deep state. So, they're doing a counter-revolution. These movements influenced the mainstream, as I wrote in my book 'American Dreamers' — they didn't always change the political structure but they did change American culture. MAGA therefore wants to fight these cultural wars.

Anti-Vietnam War protests became legendary, yet the US is often at war worldwide, despite its citizens' wishes. What does this show us about the state of American democracy?

■ It's not in good shape. American military expansion began in World War II when the United States took over as an unofficial imperial power from Britain and other European nations. Most Americans supported that later on during the Cold War too because they believed the Soviet Union was evil and the United States had to stop communism.

However, the Vietnam War — the first war America really lost — caused most Americans to no longer be celebratory of American power overseas. At the same time, they didn't want to seem opposed to the military. Since then, there have been cross-currents — on the one hand, Americans don't want to go to war and basically support battles that are quick, where Americans clearly win and not many die, like the first Gulf War in the 1990s or snatching away the President of Venezuela. At the same time, there is a sense that those who go into the military serve the country — there is a desire to honour them, such as at sporting events like baseball games where the announcer asks everyone to rise and honour the service people in attendance for free there. So, there is this ambivalence.

WHEN ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH: Anti-Vietnam War protests saw 1960s youth on the streets

The recent Iran war was also very unpopular — yet, it's hard to give up the idea that America is the most powerful country in the world. One way to unite people in a country which has several internal conflicts is to say, you're part of a great power — do you really want to give that up? Do you actually want China or India to take over? So, while Americans don't want to go to war, they remain reluctant to give up the sense that America is the most powerful country on Earth.

We once knew America through 'The Great Gatsby' — is there an iconic American book today?

■ I don't think so. First, most Americans do their reading now on mobile phones — many probably haven't even read F. Scott Fitzgerald. Rather than books, some movies have been iconic, like 'The Godfather', a great portrait of American power held by immigrants who made good by doing bad. Part of the problem is our culture is very fragmented — there are thousands of TV channels, YouTube platforms and all kinds of social media, so it's difficult to have 'iconic' cultural representations of the country. Reading the canon of American literature, which includes Mark Twain to Toni Morrison, Henry James, Hemingway and others, is voluntary for most students and many adults don't read older books anymore. The highest-selling recent novels in the US were probably Harry Potter books.

America is turning 250 years old — what makes you optimistic and fearful about its path?

■ I believe the ideals of the Republic are still great ones. The concept that all men are created equal and should be treated thus has been extended by social movements to women and people of all races. Those ideals remain a place for people to stand, fight and see them turn into reality. For all the problems Donald Trump poses for immigrants, many people still want to come to the US — it's still seen as a place where people find opportunity and tolerance.

I also think Americans will get used to us no longer being the most powerful country — others, like China and India, are rising and it's better for the world if there isn't one hegemon. Alongside, I'm hopeful seeing environmental movements, including calls for climate action by people who are altruistic and want to save ecology and protect others.

However, I'm fearful Donald Trump could be succeeded by another person with the same politics — but shrewder. The US has changed in very positive ways since the 1960s. If that was rolled back, it would be a serious problem. Being a historian is frightening. You know contingency matters — we have structures and contexts, we can see deep historical factors at work in what happens but, in the end, one person like Donald Trump can amass power in a nation holding nuclear weapons. That is scary.

Views expressed are personal

HAIL WOMAN POWER: Feminists like Gloria Steinem revolutionised 1970s USA

Photos: iStock

BORN IN THE USA

● The lovely **pronghorn**, bearing **10-inch curved horns,** is the **fastest land mammal in America,** running at **88.5 km/hour.** Found **west of the great Mississippi river**, the pronghorn is a species of even-toed, hoofed mammal. Though not an antelope, it is colloquially called **'the American antelope'**. Blessed with beautiful large eyes and a **320° field of vision**, the pronghorn leaves nothing to chance — when wary, it displays **a white warning patch** on its rump that can be seen for miles

● The little **American green tree frog** — 2 inches in length — lives in open canopy forests, on the banks of lakes and marsh edges. These **adaptable amphibians** are found across the diverse climates of the **Gulf Coast to New England** and while called 'green', **they could be olive, brown or gray.** This shy, mysterious frog often has a white-yellow stripe extending down its side and **tiny gold specks on its back, its smooth skin changing colour as temperatures and light alter**

● The tremendous **American bald eagle** — its **wingspan is 7 feet** — is the **US national symbol.** It is not actually 'bald', its name describing its white head. Inhabiting Alaska, it lives near water bodies with abundant fish and old-growth trees where **it builds mindboggling 13-feet-deep nests.** Strategic — it often snatches fish caught by ospreys — it faced extinction when **Rachel Carson in 1973 highlighted DDT's dangers to ecology.** Once this was banned, populations recovered — **the eagle indeed landed**

Research: National Geographic, Encyclopaedia Britannica, BBC, National Wildlife Federation

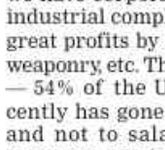
'US overseas wars impact gender, jobs and political power at home — they reflect a waning democracy'

__Catherine Lutz__ is Thomas J. Watson, Jr. Family Professor of International Studies at Brown University. Speaking with __Srijana Mitra Das__ in TE, she discusses the results of overseas wars — within America:

Photos: iStock

TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS... The US is a paradox — while its capitalist system needs peace and stability to function, it has also fought over 240 military conflicts in 250 years

Catherine Lutz is talking about mega-wars and massive destruction — as calmly as possible. When TE asks her what drives the United States into war, the historian ponders carefully before replying. 'In the post-World War II period, I'd say the US government belief — shared widely through propagation — that the US was the world's most advanced nation and had a moral obligation to protect freedom, often by acting in a unilateral way. All the 800 US bases around the world are thus considered 'security gifts' to the countries they're in.'



She points out, somewhat ironically — 'Alongside, there is also the idea that we have corporations — the 'military-industrial complex' — that could make great profits by supplying the US with weaponry, etc. That profit motive is huge — 54% of the US military budget recently has gone to those corporations and not to salaries. Also, access to resources, particularly oil and minerals, is a driving factor. Another is the steadily limited democracy we have — the increasingly imperial presidency of the last 30 years has been growing as a result of so much of our budget being organised around war.'

MAKING BOMBS NORMAL: Operation Desert Storm in the 1990s sent war to TV screens

How has America's warring abroad impacted its life at home? Lutz replies, 'One of the most impacted ways has been ideas of gender — when the US is defined as a nation at war, it comes across in people's minds as 'the men are at war, protecting the women'. Also, popular sentiment has been shaped by defining soldiers as 'the best of America', super-citizens protecting the nation. Else, today, when we say, 'Thank you for your service', we would be talking about our teachers and healthcare providers, mainly occupations filled by women, who are also central in protecting our democracy. In the last decade, when you look at who really stood up to Donald Trump, it's been Liz Cheney, Cassidy Hutchinson, many women in our Supreme Court, in Congress, organisers at 'No Kings' rallies, etc. American women are key in protecting US democracy — but militarisation makes us overlook that.'

This is not the only cost of America going to war. At Brown University's Costs of War project (costsofwar.watson.brown.edu), Lutz, along with fellow academic Neta Crawford, calculated the financials of battle. She says, 'After the Afghanistan war, we made an assessment that the total cost of the War on Terror had been $8 trillion. It's hard to communicate the scale of that number but dollars are one countable indice. The other is the number of people killed — nearly a million people were killed in direct violence in wars the US started or got involved in across Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and Pakistan. Almost half were civilians. There were also huge numbers wounded, alongside civilians who died indirectly since, as Stephanie Savelle researches, war destruction included damaged healthcare, infrastructure, sewage and water systems, etc. So, the estimate is over 3.5 million people having perished in the post-9-11 war zones.'

TE takes in this astonishing figure, then asks, 'Many Americans oppose war but don't figure in decisions made about this — what does that tell us?' Lutz says, 'It shows two things. First, for many years, people have seen foreign policy as less relevant to their lives, something that happens out there, run by experts, not needing much thought by us. That has changed, particularly since Iraq and Afghanistan — but I think those who question do not impact our government much because we're no longer a true democracy. Each year, we have fallen further down on that list of carefully measured democratic principles and behaviours that our nation engages in. Many Americans think, for instance, the amount spent on war is too much and there should be greater investment at home. But a factor that gets in the way is the belief — again, promoted by those profiting from it — that the military budget creates jobs. Those beliefs are easily challenged by research like ours, which shows each billion dollars of federal US spending on war creates far fewer jobs than when invested in healthcare, education, construction or science.'

...& IN THE WORLD

She mentions science — has US militarisation impacted that and technology? Lutz answers emphatically, 'For sure — we are a nation that has great technophilia or the love of technology. Just look at the flyovers of our advanced fighter jets on football stadiums, our faith in our advanced weaponry, the aircraft carrier groups, the B-2 bombers, AI and the adoption of robots and drone warfare now. All these 'gee whiz'-zy things come in part from our most advanced tools. We once shone at health research but now, it's also our ability to make technologies of war.'

One remembers the 4th of July fireworks seen in the United States — they resembled bombs rather than childish pyrotechnics, overwhelming in their noise, excruciatingly frightening in their insistent brightness. The evening seemed more out of a war scene than a happy one — yet, people exulted in the lawns underneath while small animals and little birds cowered and tried to hide. TE asks Lutz, 'Is there an intersection between American overseas militarisation and the easy domestic access to weapons?' She replies, 'They are connected in two ways. One is the mistaken belief which both share, that force works and it's the ultimate way to solve problems. This idea has prevailed even though guns often hurt the wielder as much as those they're pointed at. People here buy guns, thinking they'll protect their family — but they are more likely to be used in suicides or homicide within the household. I think that's a metaphor for what violence overseas has done to America itself — this is not just out there. Its damage comes home with our military forces, suicide rates and traumatic brain injuries.'

She adds, 'When I was doing research in Fayetteville, a military town in North Carolina, one veteran said, 'We have to have a military because protection is the first impulse of any organism.' He was referring to a belief that human nature is tooth and claw and we are basically territorial animals who must fight. That contrasts to the belief that the central impulse of any human organism is connection and contribution to people around you. Those two views have struggled in America — and the idea that we're mainly tooth and claw has powerful purchase.'

How is it working now, after America's baffling war on Iran? Lutz explains, 'Many Americans can see that failure — but there is an attempt to erase it and define Iran as a success. That's where our corporate media comes in, with incredible debts to pay or bargains struck with the powers that be. So, Americans are enmeshed in a media landscape full of falsehoods, with algorithmically directed attention on social media. It's very hard for new ideas to break through — particularly an awareness that America has not improved at winning wars, it's getting worse at it.'

Views expressed are personal

HOLY SMOKE: July 4 fireworks in the US resemble a declaration of dominance

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

I deeply appreciated the sparkling feature in TE on David Hockney (13th June) by Srijana Mitra Das. Each sentence had such imaginative energy and the descriptions of European masters and Hockney's own ecology-based style were truly perceptive and insightful. Compliments on extraordinary writing!

— Professor Vijay Prakash Singh, Dept of English & Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow

Thank you, TE, for the excellent article highlighting the life of David Hockney. Your article was so lyrical and poetic and it delightfully 'evoked' the anecdote regarding all the shadows in Laurel and Hardy films, which inspired Hockney to move from grey England to bright and sunny USA! Keep up the good work!

— Neetu Malik, New Delhi

TE's interview with Neta Crawford (21st June) on the environmental impact of wars was very thought-provoking. Every gun, missile, rocket and bomb produces only pollutants, greenhouse gases and chemicals that are lethal to humans, animals and vegetation. Reconstruction again produces more emissions as do war-driven longer routes taken by flights and ships. Can't we use humanity's good sense to protect Earth from such impacts?

— Dr Akhil Kumar Singh, Noida

TE's interview with Professor Neta Crawford was engaging. The recent US-Israel-Iran war has only increased carbon emissions. I strongly believe this conflict was not required. Wars cause human suffering and accelerate climate change through pollution, resource depletion and long-term ecological damage. Reducing global military activity and promoting diplomacy are essential to protect life on this planet.

— Abhijeet Gosavi, Hyderabad

Share your thoughts at:
timesevoke@timesofindia.com

Read Times Evoke online at:
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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

IF STUPIDITY GOT US INTO THIS MESS, THEN WHY CAN'T IT GET US OUT? — WILL ROGERS

DUSTIN HOFFMAN AND JULIETTE BINOCHE HONOURED BY CZECH FILM FESTIVAL FOR 'OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION'

KATY PERRY TAKES A DIG AT EX-HUBBY RUSSELL BRAND DURING A GIG: 'HOPE HE IS NOT IN AUDIENCE, HE SHOULD BE IN JAIL'

Self-immolation outside UN draws fresh attention to Tibet

Activist Was Protesting Chinese Occupation, Called For Tibetan Unity

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The death of a Tibetan activist who set himself on fire outside the United Nations headquarters on Thursday has thrust one of the world's longest-running — and increasingly neglected — human rights issues back into the international spotlight, confronting the global community with a tragedy that many Tibetan campaigners say was born not of madness but of desperation.

The activist, identified by Tibetan exile groups as Lobga Rangzen, died after suffering severe burns outside the UN complex in Manhattan on Thursday evening. Police said they found the man critically injured after responding to an emergency call, and he was pronounced dead at Bellevue Hospital. Activists said he was a 52-year-old Uber driver who had lived in the US for about two decades.

Moments before setting himself ablaze, he unfurled a Tibetan flag, reportedly displayed a placard reading "China Out of Tibet," and livestreamed what he described as a final appeal for Tibetan unity and independence. Tibetan groups shared the graphic video with trigger warnings.

The protest came just days after China brought into force a new "Ethnic Unity" law, legislation critics say further institutionalises the assimilation of Tibetans, Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities into a single national identity while extending Beijing's campaign against what it calls separatism. Chinese authorities reject such accusations, insisting the measures promote national cohesion and stability.

A screengrab of the video which was livestreamed by Tibetan activist Lobga Rangzen as he self-immolated in Manhattan on Thursday

The act also revived memories of a grim statistic that has gradually faded from international headlines. Since 2009, more than 150 Tibetans are reported to have self-immolated inside Tibet to protest Chinese rule, restrictions on religion, language and culture, and the continued absence of meaningful dialogue between Beijing and the exiled Tibetan leadership. Human rights organisations have long argued that many of those deaths passed with little sustained international response.

The International Campaign for Tibet described Rangzen as a committed advocate who had devoted himself to peacefully raising awareness of conditions inside Tibet, saying his final act reflected profound despair over the worsening human rights situation. Exiled Tibetan lawmakers similarly hailed what they called his "ultimate sacrifice" while urging govts across the world to focus on the message behind his death rather than the manner of it.

The protest has also exposed how far Tibet has slipped down Washington's diplomatic agenda. During the 1990s and early 2000s, Tibet regularly featured in congressional hearings and White House discussions. Lawmakers including Nancy Pelosi became some of the cause's most outspoken champions, repeatedly criticizing Beijing's policies and meeting the Dalai Lama despite Chinese objections. Hollywood too embraced the issue, with Richard Gere emerging as perhaps Tibet's best-known celebrity advocate, joined over the years by figures such as Harrison Ford, Susan Sarandon, Bianca Jagger and musicians including Sting.

Yet as US-China relations evolved from engagement to strategic competition focused on trade, technology, Taiwan and military rivalry, Tibet gradually became a secondary issue. Successive administrations have continued to voice concern over religious freedom and human rights, but the question rarely occupies the front rank of bilateral diplomacy. Analysts say Washington has increasingly calibrated its public messaging to avoid adding another flashpoint to an already fraught relationship with Beijing.

As of Friday, the White House had not issued a substantive public statement addressing the self-immolation – unsurprising given the deference with which President Trump treats China's president Xi Jinping. Similarly, there was no immediate public statement from New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani . The UN confirmed the incident occurred outside its headquarters, but beyond expressing sympathy, it has offered no indication that the tragedy would alter its approach toward Tibet.

'France, Belgium & The Netherlands saw 3,700 excess deaths in heatwave'

Paris: France, the Netherlands and Belgium have recorded 3,700 excess deaths during the June heatwave that sent temperatures soaring across Europe, with authorities warning that the numbers are preliminary and could rise. Experts have said the heatwave, which lasted from about June 20-28, was the worst recorded in Europe, causing disruption to power generation, damaging infrastructure and overwhelming healthcare systems. The extreme heat was almost certainly driven by climate change, scientists said.

There were 2,025 excess deaths recorded in France during the heatwave, with a particular increase in deaths among those over 45, French health minister Stephanie Rist told local television on Friday. Deaths at home rose 91% between June 22-28 compared to the previous week, while deaths in nursing homes and healthcare facilities also increased, the country's public health authority said in a bulletin. "Mortality will ... be higher than these initial figures suggest," the authority warned.

In Belgium, the health ministry said on Thursday it had registered excess mortality of about 1,200 deaths between June 18 and June 29, adding that 530 of the deaths were among people aged 85 or older. People aged under 65 accounted for 180 of the excess deaths. "Such excess mortality during a heatwave is unprecedented in our country," the ministry said. Authorities in the Netherlands said the heatwave led to about 480 excess deaths, mainly among the over 80s. REUTERS

Khamenei lies in state in Iran as funeral week begins

Dubai: The body of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei lay in state in a vast hall in Tehran Friday as clerics, officials, foreign dignitaries and other mourners paid their respects to Iran's late supreme leader, slain by US and Israeli bombs. Iran is staging a week of mass funeral processions for Khamenei, whose 37-year reign was brought to an end in Feb, in a show of public devotion to the Islamic Republic's theocratic state and revolutionary zeal.

His body was likely to be taken to Qom, Najaf and Kerbala, the great Shi'ite centres of Iran and Iraq, before being laid to rest on next Thursday in Mashhad, home to the country's holiest pilgrim shrine.

His coffin was unveiled late Thursday to a throng of sobbing supporters, swaying and beating their heads in time to a sung lament as flowers were thrown from the bier into the crowd. On Friday the coffin — and those of family members who were also killed in the same attack— was laid in state in the great prayer hall built to honour his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The funeral is taking place at a critical moment for Iran, where the clerical rulers backed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps are riding high from surviving what they saw as an existential war against their most powerful foes. Support for the clerical leadership is paper-thin, analysts say, and the new supreme leader, Khamenei's son Mojtaba Khamenei, has not been seen in any new image since being wounded in a strike.

Tehran's streets were tightly controlled on Friday, with security vehicles lining the major roads and police and members of the black-shirted volunteer Iran warned the US and Israel against any attacks during the funeral.

A black turban, worn by clerics claiming descent from Islam's Prophet Mohammed, lay on the coffin on a folded chequered scarf, a symbol in Iran of revolutionary ideals and solidarity with Palestinians.

In central Tehran overnight, a crowd stood sobbing and chanting. "God willing, only by avenging his blood, demanding justice for it, and ensuring that our leader's blood is not left unavenged, can this sorrow of the people be alleviated," said Mobina Razaaghi, an 18-year-old student, attending the funeral. AGENCIES

AFP

Mourners gather as Ayatollah Khamenei's body is displayed in Tehran on Friday for the first time for people to pay their last respects

Indian delegation pays tribute

An Indian delegation on Friday paid tribute to Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The delegation, comprising Bihar Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain and minister of state for external affairs Pabitra Margherita paid their respects to the Iranian leader in Tehran. Separately, Congress leader Salman Khurshid, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim and Christian religious leaders from India also paid homage to the late Iranian leader. PTI

'Secret Service missed 102 radio calls during '24 Trump shooting'

Washington: The US secret service did not receive 102 local radio transmissions about the gunman who attempted to assassinate President Donald Trump at a 2024 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, according to a govt watchdog report released on Thursday.

The agency was unaware of the transmissions on July 13, 2024, because it had failed to establish a joint communications room with local law enforcement, which was receiving reports about the search for a suspicious person later identified as Thomas Crooks, according to the report by the department of homeland security's inspector general. "Instead, we found that the secret service received only five phone calls and three text messages about Crooks," the report notes. "As a result, secret service members did not alert President Trump's protective detail about concerns of a suspicious person."

Recommendations in the inspector general's report covered such areas as information sharing and addressing "line of sight vulnerabilities" ahead of events. The secret service said that it concurred with the inspector general's recommendations. "Many of these recommendations were already identified ... and have since been implemented as part of our reform efforts," a spokesperson said. REUTERS

40 killed as speeding overcrowded bus plunges into ravine in Pakistan

Quetta: A speeding, overcrowded passenger bus plunged from a highway into a rocky ravine in southwestern Pakistan early Friday, killing 40 people and injuring eight others, officials said.

The bus went out of control and fell into the ravine near the border of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, Shahid Rind, a spokesperson for Balochistan govt, said. He said the bus was also carrying passengers from another bus that had broken down, leaving the vehicle overcrowded.

One of the injured survivors told local media from his hospital bed that some passengers protested after the driver stopped to pick up people from another bus that had broken down and was also headed to Peshawar. The passenger said an argument followed, during which a passenger allegedly grabbed the bus driver by the neck. Moments later, the driver lost control of the bus, which plunged into the ravine. The account of the passenger could not be independently verified and police said they are still investigating the accident. AP

IANS

The bus went out of control after a 'scuffle between passengers and driver'

Hindus lose land bid to church and Muslim group in the UK

Naomi Canton

London: British Hindus in Cambridgeshire have lost their bid to have their first place of worship in the county after the local council awarded a piece of faith land to a church and Muslim group in the new town of Northstowe and not to a Hindu charity. South Cambridgeshire District Council has leased 0.2 hectares of land for 999 years to Northstowe Church Network (NCN), who will pay only peppercorn rent.

Hindu Samaj Northstowe (HSN) also bid for the land, proposing an interfaith and wellbeing centre as well as a temple, but the council officers, who assessed the bids, scored HSN's bid as 65% and NCN's as 81%, so the land will go to NCN. NCN's proposal includes having Northstowe Muslims as an anchor tenant with their own Islamic prayer room and education centre.

Whilst there are many churches and mosques in Cambridgeshire, there is not one Hindu temple. Hindus have to travel two hours to Birmingham or Wembley to worship. They can't hire such community spaces overnight, making it difficult to celebrate festivals. Idols are often stuffed in carrier bags, stored in garages, and many have got damaged as they get moved around from venue to venue.

Aparna Nigam-Saxena, chair of HSN, said: "We are very disappointed the decision did not go in our favour...we have a lot of questions about transparency and robustness of the process." She said they were considering whether to appeal. The HSN bid got marked down for various reasons, including lack of "financial track record", but she said they had not been aware this was an important factor. "They should have given us guidelines if they wanted to see prepared quotes from our architect."

Around 150 Hindu families who live in Northstowe have been left devastated. Eyva, 16, told **TOI** she has never been able to celebrate Shivratri overnight or experience "havans". "I often see my cousins in India celebrating something and I wish I could celebrate in the same way but I can't." Abhishek Srivastava, who comes from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, said he sometimes feels he made a mistake moving to the UK as his children, aged 9 and 12, are not able to participate in Hindu festivals.

VENICE MAYOR PROPOSES FEE UP TO €50 FOR DAY-TRIPPERS

AP

Venice's new mayor is proposing a dynamic pricing system for the city's 3-year-old day-tripper access fee, seeking govt approval to raise the charge to as much as 50 euros ($59) on the busiest days to ease overcrowding in the Unesco world heritage city. Mayor Simone Venturini told AP on Friday that the current 10-euro fee for last-minute reservations has not done enough to discourage visitors on peak days. Instead of imposing a fixed higher fee, the city wants to enact a form of surge-pricing, allowing the charge to rise with demand on the busiest days. Venturini said the system would both discourage overcrowding and help cover the costs of maintaining the city. Venturini said the money is necessary to clean and maintain the city. The proposal for a surge-pricing structure would require an amendment to Italy's special law governing Venice, and Venturini said he had already discussed the idea with the tourism minister. AP

UK culture secy quits X over 'abuse & misinformation'

London: UK minister Lisa Nandy took to social media to announce that she and her department for culture, media and sport (DCMS) will leave X over its tilt towards "abuse and misinformation". The British-Indian culture secretary said in a post on the Elon Musk owned social media platform on Thursday that people can continue to follow her on alternative networks such as Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

"I've decided to leave this platform and my department will too," reads her X post. "A platform originally designed for free speech and expression now favours abuse and misinformation over meaningful debate. It isn't healthy for our democracy or our communities and I don't want to support it," she said. Nandy's move makes DCMS the second UK govt department to exit the platform, after attorney general Richard Hermer banned his department from using X last month. PTI

Rare copy of US Declaration of Independence unearthed in UK

London: A "vanishingly rare" copy of the Declaration of Independence has been found in London, dug up in archives holding documents from the British capture of an American privateer ship in 1776, just as the US celebrates its 250th anniversary.

The text, famous for its rallying cry for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness",

11 SURVIVING COPIES

had been listed in 18th century records as simply "another document" but in May a volunteer at Britain's National Archives took a closer look. "Unearthing and handling such a significant historical document has been thrilling, particularly in this important anniversary year," said Michael Scurr, the volunteer who found it while working on a cataloguing project.

Back in 1776, July 4 was when the declaration was adopted by Congress, and as the revolutionary mood swept through the American colonies, supportive printers rushed to reproduce it and share as widely as they could the new country's founding document. The one found in London was printed in Exeter, New Hampshire, in mid-July 1776 and is the 11th surviving copy of the so-called "Exeter Declarations", and the first to be found outside the US.

Eleazer Johnson, captain of the Dalton ship, picked up a copy some months later that same year before he set sail across the Atlantic on a mission to try to seize British vessels, possibly hoping the text would inspire his crew to fight for the new country. But on Dec 24, 1776, off the coast of Portugal, the Royal Navy captured the Dalton, and brought it and its contents back to Plymouth, England. The National Archives said the document is the only known copy of the declaration taken by military action. REUTERS

Russian jobs site posts ad for drone operators for def

Russia's biggest jobs website, HeadHunter, is advertising for drone operators to protect the skies above Moscow.

The online ad says candidates are being sought for a volunteer unit called the Combat Army Reserve Force that is tasked with "ensuring the capital's security using modern technical solutions and surveillance systems". "You will work with high-tech equipment designed to protect the urban environment," it says. The job description includes pre-flight preparation and operation of drones, carrying out reconnaissance missions and "conducting flights to collect datasets, by day and at night". Candidates require only "basic technical skills". But the pay — starting at 150,000 roubles per month — compares unfavourably with the average for Moscow of more than 200,000 roubles. REUTERS

DAILY PLANET

Steam railway that travels through Swiss Alps celebrates its 100th anniv

AP

One of DFB's historic steam trains travels from Realp to Oberwald

Train enthusiasts will celebrate the 100th anniversary of a historic Swiss railway this weekend as vintage steam locomotives ferry tourists through the stunning Alpine scenery as part of the celebration. The Furka Pass, at an altitude of 7,976 feet, is among Switzerland's highest Alpine passes and famous for its hairpin curves featured in the 1964 James Bond "Goldfinger" movie. But long before 007 actor Sean Connery filmed a harrowing car chase scene there, a steam train first traversed the steep and winding route in a continuous journey on July 3, 1926, kicking off a vital rail link between the regions of Uri and Valais in central Switzerland for decades. In the early 1980s, a tunnel at the base of the Alps diverted rail traffic and prompted the closure of the historic mountain route until volunteers stepped in. Hundreds of them, nicknamed the railway's "pioneers," have spent hours to restore, maintain and operate the historic tracks and trains so they run the same as a century ago. The first section of the line reopened as a heritage railway in 1992, and the 18-km track was ready for travel in 2010. The steam trains now operate exclusively as a tourist attraction in the summers between the stations of Realp and Oberwald.

Taylor Swift & Travis Kelce married ahead of NYC celebrations, says report

Pop music megastar Taylor Swift and National Football League player Travis Kelce are married, the New York Post's Page Six reported Thursday, citing multiple unnamed sources amid preparations for an expected celebration at New York's Madison Square Garden. The couple, both 36, exchanged vows in front of a "tiny group of loved ones," the media outlet said. It did not say when or where the nuptials took place, though it noted Swift's private jet recently spent time in Nashville, the city where she lived early in her career. Swift's publicist did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and Reuters could not confirm the Page Six report.

Aus officials ask fans to respect privacy of Neil, a 1000kg seal, who respects nothing

Wellington: Like plenty of local boys before him, Neil has come home to the stretch of Australian coast where it was born. Unlike most of them, he trails fame, fans and property damage in his wake. It is also a 1,000 kg elephant seal.

In June, the bellowing and blubbery 5-year-old mammal hauled itself onto land for its twice-yearly tour of beachside towns in southern Tasmania state after months of feeding at sea. That's posing problems now that it weighs as much as a small car and has a social media following more than double Tasmania's human population. Its rampage through infrastructure has claimed bent traffic bollards, a sign warning public about seals and a fence that did not survive Neil's attempt to vault it. The rest of the time it lies placidly any place it likes, which is sometimes the middle of the road, bringing towns it visits to a standstill. But officials say their concern is that Neil's popularity could lead to ill-advised human-seal encounters that are dangerous for both sides.

Neil, the only male elephant seal to visit Tasmania in years, has commanded an enthralled TikTok following of 1.4 million in part because it acts like kind of a jerk. During this visit to shore, its 12th, its crimes have included picking fights with parked cars and smashing through barriers erected to keep it off roads. Experts say it's normal experimentation for a growing seal.

Juvenile male elephant seals need to practice for dominance battles in which adults rear up and crash their chests together as they compete for breeding opportunities, said Sophia Volzke, an elephant seal scientist based at the University of Tasmania. With no other juveniles to practice with, Neil can only rehearse on cars.

Local officials fear that Neil is the latest wild animal whose social media stardom has outgrown what's good for him. "Neil's fame is a bit of a double-edged sword," said Kris Carlyon from Tasmania's Department of Natural Resources and Environment, at a news conference in which he asked the seal's fans to give it privacy.

"We have had some pretty silly behaviour, instances with people carrying their small babies up close to Neil and simply trying to get that shot for Instagram," he said.

Officials have urged the public to refrain from identifying the town Neil is currently delighting or terrorising. They fear a disastrous encounter between the seal and an admirer could force rangers into a risky operation to move him elsewhere. In a 2023 episode, a walrus known as Freya who drew huge crowds in Norway was euthanised after officials cited a risk to human safety. "There is a risk here of loving Neil to death," Carlyon said. AP

AP

Neil the seal has 1.4m followers on TikTok. Its antics include picking up fight with parked cars and smashing barriers erected to keep it off roads

Bangalore Times

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A thought for today

No matter that patriotism is too often the refuge of scoundrels. Dissent, rebellion, and all-around hell-raising remain the true duty of patriots

BARBARA EHRENREICH

Agreeing To Disagree

Dissent and protest are pillars of democracy

There's no democracy without a right to dissent. And right to dissent is not a five-yearly concession, available only on voting day. Citizens may disagree with govt on any issue, at any time. But how? Not by grumbling at dinner tables. That's why freedom to protest publicly, without harming others, of course, is respected in all genuine democracies. It's been described as a pressure valve that prevents violent upheavals. Article 19 of our Constitution guarantees it, although imperfectly, through freedom of speech and expression. But police, across states, have been showing a rising tendency to suppress it.

That's why Bombay HC judge Madhav Jamdar's remarks, while quashing an order to "extern" a citizen, are timely and significant. The judge reminded Maharashtra Police that "mere opposition to a govt decision" can't be grounds for punishment. Because if protest is criminalised, the question arises: "Are all citizens being made slaves?"

Independent India is a nation born of sustained nonviolent protest. Unlike America, which is celebrating its 250th Independence Day today, we didn't go to war against the British. So, protest should have greater sanctity in our public life. If it doesn't anymore, we should ask why. Is the contract between electors and elected broken? Is accountability off the table? While suppression of dissenters by police is disturbing, all political parties' failure to correct it is the real cause for concern. Because it signals that such clampdowns are alright.

As a nation, we are lucky to have a tradition of dharna, morcha, and other forms of peaceful protest. Research by Harvard Kennedy School professor Erica Chenoweth shows peaceful protests have been twice as effective as violent struggles. In fact, no peaceful protest supported by 3.5% of the population has failed in history. Clearly, protest is one of society's intelligent regulatory mechanisms. We can use more of it.

Hope Won't Be Buried

Inspiring stories of Venezuela quake survivors

A woman who sat up on a stretcher, waving, rescued 70 hours after devastating back-to-back earthquakes in Venezuela on June 24. A dog's head peering up, through a crack in the concrete, five days on. A dust-coated father and son, rescued six days since the quake. A security guard seen drawing, surrounded by debris, a camera snaked down for rescuers to be in touch while they tunnelled through the rubble – Gil Flores held his nerve for eight days, waiting patiently inside a mound of concrete. And as each rescue was attempted, outside, the world waited, crowds stood, hanging on to hope. Almost 3,000 people are dead, over 11,000 injured, and Nasa images show nearly 59,000 buildings along the coast are damaged. And yet, people have survived.

It took 100 hours to free the security guard after establishing contact – survival is rare after the first 48 to 72 hours of a quake. Erasure is near-immediate. But, time and again, around the world, stories of survival, of people found alive days, even weeks, later have powered rescuers to persist to find more survivors. Science – tiny air pockets, access to water – explains some of the survival, human resilience, and tenacity of rescuers, the rest. What keeps everyone going is hope…the difference between finding one more survivor and calling off the search. Flip side? Where people aren't identified, and there's hope, there's rarely closure.

Will AI Find Its Feet After Bubble Bursts?

That's what a prominent tech critic believes

Last year, Big Tech's AI capital expenditure touched $400bn. This year, it's likely to top $700bn. How long can this cash burn last without a revenue spurt? NYU professor Gary Marcus has described the unending AI buildout as the "greatest capital misallocation in history". Tech critic ***Cory Doctorow*** agrees. His book *Enshittification*, which explores why user experience on online platforms sucks, was a hit last year. Now, he's back with another book, titled ***The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI***.

What's a reverse centaur, and what does Doctorow mean by a post-AI life? Surely, the text and image generators we've become so used to aren't about to vanish? Who'll write the court-ordered 500-word essays for juvenile delinquents then?

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

Centaurs were mythic creatures with a horse's lower body, and a man's torso and head. But in automation theory, a branch of computer science, a centaur is a human assisted by a machine. That means every computer user. A reverse centaur is the opposite: a machine's human assistant.

AI, as we know it, wouldn't have been possible without armies of such reverse centaurs – low-paid workers who annotated images and text to train AI. And there are many other kinds of reverse centaurs as well. In fact, all employers would love to get rid of their human staff, retaining just a handful of reverse centaurs who can help AI do bulk of the work.

And that, per Doctorow, is the crux of the whole AI "bubble". We know that AI firms have been losing money for years, and there's currently no business model that can recoup their rapidly increasing losses. So, why do investors continue pouring money into AI? Doctorow says investors hope "The AI they are funding will be so good that employers can fire half their workers and replace them with AI, with the proceeds split between AI companies' customers, and the AI companies themselves."

That's why, AI is not an ordinary race with a finish line. Rather, it's a race to death for major firms. In the end, only one player might survive, to become a monopolist. At least, that's what investors hope, says Doctorow. Which firm will it be? There are as many hopes as there are investors, because each investor believes they have made the right bet.

To keep investors convinced, firms must show them more and more powerful AI models. Hence, the relentless buildout with its frightening energy and water demands, "endangering the planet and the lives of millions of people to make several redundant AI tools that are functionally indistinguishable."

Doctorow does not believe in the AI game because of its flawed economics. Before the dot-com bubble burst, he says, the unit cost of adding users, and the cost of each web session, had been falling. But with AI, "Each generation of AI foundation models has been vastly more expensive to train and operate…AI gets more expensive when it adds a user or a feature."

So, the bubble is bound to burst, and considering how much weight AI stocks have in markets, it will hurt ordinary people, pensioners, etc. But after that, we will "get down to assessing what these applied statistics tools can do for us". Doctorow isn't saying AI tools are useless, but that their best and viable uses are yet to be found.

As America turns 250 today, it is richer, more powerful, and more desirable than almost any nation in history. So why does it feel so anxious? Two US academics explore the paradox

A Dream, But UnAmerican

Kathy M Newman

Professor of English, Carnegie Mellon University

You might have heard a vast collective sigh of relief this week, when US's Supreme Court upheld birthright citizenship by a vote of 5 to 4. But that they even agreed to take up the case was an outrage, since our constitution's 14th Amendment clearly states that any person born on American soil is a US citizen: "All persons born or naturalised in the United States…are citizens of the United States."

Birthright citizenship is a cornerstone of the American Dream. For the last century and a half, from the 1870s to the present, migrants have streamed here from around the globe, to build a new life under this banner. And, despite America's recent lack of hospitality, US still ranks high on the list of countries the world's people want to move to.

But what is the American Dream? On this 250th birthday of our country, we can point back to our Declaration of Independence, a truly radical document, whose authors considered it "self-evident" that "all men are created equal", and "endowed…with certain unalienable Rights…[including] Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The phrase itself, as we use it today, was coined during the Great Depression by James Truslow Adams, a Brooklynite investment banker, in his bestseller, *The Epic of America*. He defined the American Dream as "a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable… regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position."

Over the course of my lifetime, since the 1970s, the American Dream has become something of a political Rorschach test. Some take it to mean personal responsibility, rugged individualism, and religion. Ronald Reagan said, "the American dream is not that every man must be level with every other man. The American dream is that every man must be free to become whatever God intends he should become."

A more common definition is one that stresses equality of opportunity. Nancy Pelosi has said, "Democrats believe in reigniting the American dream by removing barriers to success and building ladders of opportunity for all, so everyone can succeed."

While equality of opportunity is not the same as equality, it's better than nothing. But even equality of opportunity is too egalitarian for the current administration. Trump and his minions pick who wins, who loses, and who is disposable.

From ICE raids that have led to the deaths of American citizens, to ICE detention centres in which at least 51 detainees have died since 2025, to a recent Department of Justice memo questioning whether or not disabled Americans have the right to live independently and avoid institutionalisation, to tax cuts in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that have already led to 8mn Americans dropping or losing healthcare, to anti-ICE protesters facing decades in prison, to warrantless firings of dozens of high-ranking Black and women officers in US military, to the recent Supreme Court decision barring trans kids from participating in school sports – this is an administration hellbent on preventing us from attaining the "fullest stature of which [we] are innately capable."

In 18 months as president, Trump's fortune has grown by $2.2bn – more money than he earned in his previous 79 years of life. There is, perversely, a bright side to the brazenness of all this, which is that anyone paying attention is enraged.

As recent primaries have shown, Democrats under 45 will vote for anyone who promises to tax the rich, expand the Supreme Court, enact Medicare for all, raise the minimum wage, make college free, freeze the rent, strengthen unions, make public transportation free, make childcare free, end military aid to Israel (and lots of other countries, too), and end foreign wars.

We are angry. The American Dream has been attainable for some, for some of our history. But we are done begging for crumbs. We are ready to dream some unAmerican dreams, some socialist dreams – some dreams of actual equality and not just equality of opportunity. We want more than birthright citizenship. We are coming for the whole red, white, and blueberry pie – which we plan to share equitably among ourselves. Happy Birthday America.

The Pursuit Of Unhappiness

Mark R Rank

Professor of Social Welfare, Washington Univ

Many things come to mind when asked to describe the essence of America – its energy and innovation, the freedoms that Americans enjoy, the racial and ethnic mix of its people. But perhaps the most fundamental is the concept of the American Dream. It has captured the imagination of people from all corners of the world, and represents the heart and soul of our country.

A core feature of the American Dream has been an economic bargain. If you work hard and play by the rules, you should expect in return to have an economically rewarding life. This includes a good-paying job, being able to support your children, owning a home, having some savings, and being able to retire in comfort. This is viewed as possible because US has been seen as a land of abundant opportunities, where everyone can prosper, and where the playing field is basically level.

Over the last 50 years, this playing field has become more and more tilted, as those at the top of the income distribution prosper, while those in the middle and at the bottom have been falling behind. Median wages for full-time male workers have flatlined since 1973. In other words, many American workers today are earning no more than they were in the 1970s, once inflation is taken into account. Low-skilled workers are actually earning less.

Combine this with a post-Covid rise in prices of food, housing etc. Result is that many Americans feel they've been working hard but falling further behind. Over one-third of the population say they wouldn't be able to come up with $400, in case of an emergency. A significant proportion are struggling paycheck to paycheck.

The aspiration that each generation should do better economically than the previous generation, held true for most of the 20th century. But current data indicates that less than half of today's young and middle age generations will exceed their parents' economic status. Hope of a better economic future has left many Americans. The American Dream is steeped in the idea that life gets better over time. The reality for many Americans is stagnation and decline.

The ladder of opportunity has become harder to climb because its rungs have been growing further apart. Those in the top 20% of income distribution earn roughly 16 times more than those in the bottom 20%. Even more starkly, the top 10% of US population owns approximately 90% of all the financial assets of the country, while the bottom 50% hold less than 3%.

Many factors help explain this lack of economic progress for lower and middle income workers. Beginning in the early 1970s, globalisation exerted downward pressure on their wages. Employers used the very real threat of pulling jobs out of the country to undermine employees' bargaining power. Unions got seriously weakened even as the service economy grew. Result: Millions of low-wage jobs. And wage stagnation for too many workers. Yes, there have been massive economic gains over the past 50 years, but mostly concentrated in the top 20% of the income distribution, particularly the top 5% and 1%.

Equality of opportunity is also much less viable in America these days, than in many other industrialised countries. US life expectancy now varies by up to 20 years depending on the neighborhood you live in. Quality of education also differs widely based on parents' wealth. Chances of being victimised by a crime, exposed to environmental toxins, or having healthcare needs unmet, are far greater for America's poor, than those impoverished in all other OECD countries.

Naturally, there's a growing sense of alienation and anger among a large segment of the population. For too many, the bargain that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to get ahead in your life, has been eroded by rising inequality and stagnant wages. Much of the recent polarisation and backlash can be understood through this dynamic. As America looks to its next 250 years, restoring the vitality of the American Dream should be at the top of its policy, as well as its moral agenda.

Why Don't We Clean Up After Ourselves?

Indians are dazed at Japan's football fans tidying the stadium before leaving. This kind of civic sense comes from learning from childhood that public spaces are a shared responsibility, not someone else's headache

Gopal Jain

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

A heartbreaking 1-2 defeat to Brazil in Houston, brought Japan's World Cup journey to an end. But what did the Japanese fans do afterwards? They tidied up the stadium. This has actually become a familiar sight by now. Once civic sense is embedded in a people's DNA, it remains with them through the lifecycle and reflects itself in every corner of the world.

Having travelled extensively across the world for over four decades, few countries have left as lasting an impression on me as Japan. But amidst its technological advancement, high-speed trains, organised cities, what's truly stayed with me is the manner in which ordinary life is conducted.

Japan is a nation where discipline and collective responsibility are not abstract ideals. Visitors see these reflected in the smallest details of daily life – in the cleanliness of streets, the punctuality of trains, the helpfulness of strangers, the quietness of public spaces, and the respect people show towards everything that belongs to the community. For us in India, the Japanese way of living offers important lessons on how a society can become more organised, more respectful and more efficient, without losing its human warmth.

One small incident in Japan captured this spirit for me, better than any formal explanation. While walking through the city, I was carrying a burger, which accidentally fell. In many places, such a moment may have ended with the waste being casually left on the roadside, near a pavement, outside a shop or under a tree. Often it is not done with deliberate disregard, but comes from a mindset where public spaces are treated as belonging to no one in particular.

In Japan, however, the very thought of leaving it behind did not arise. The surroundings were too clean, too orderly and too carefully maintained to violate. I carried it with me until I reached the hotel, and could dispose of it properly. Such conduct does not arise overnight. In Japan, habits of cleanliness, discipline and civic responsibility are inculcated right from childhood, almost from infancy, so that respect for shared spaces becomes a natural part of one's character.

Public spaces are not treated as someone else's responsibility. Roads, stations, trains, parks and pavements are treated as things every citizen has a duty to preserve. Cleanliness is not merely the municipal workers' job. It is a social habit.

This is one of the clearest lessons I felt India can learn. We often keep our homes spotless but do not extend the same concern to the street outside. We protect private spaces but neglect public spaces. Japan reminds us that a city becomes truly liveable only when its citizens feel a sense of ownership over it.

This is reflected in public places like restaurants too. People eat, speak and enjoy themselves, yet the atmosphere never turns into noise. Everyone is remarkably soft-spoken. No one appears to impose their presence on another person's space. Even in crowded places, there is a sense of calm. This quietness is not dull or lifeless, it's respectful.

A society isn't judged only by how it builds its roads or runs its trains, but also by how its people behave when they share space with others. Japan shows that consideration for others can become a way of life. The simple act of lowering one's voice in a restaurant or public place reflects a larger culture of restraint, respect and awareness.

For me, the burger that had to be carried back to the hotel was a small inconvenience, but a large lesson. It showed the difference between a society that waits for someone else to maintain order and a society that participates in preserving it. It also showed that it pays to teach hygiene, civic discipline and respect for public spaces early in life. When such habits are inculcated from childhood, they keep not only streets and cities squeaky clean, but also the collective conscience sparkling white. As India rises globally, its economic growth must be matched by civic maturity, which can transform our idea of citizenship itself.

The writer is senior advocate, Supreme Court

Calvin & Hobbes

I SUPPOSE THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS IS LEARNING TO APPRECIATE THE MOMENT.
I, FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN BEING RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, DOING WHAT WE'RE DOING.
OF COURSE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT SCHOOL.
I COULDN'T APPRECIATE THOSE MOMENTS.

Sacred*space*

We have a choice. We have two options as human beings. We have a choice between conversation and war. That's it. Conversation and violence. And faith is a conversation stopper.

Sam Harris

My God–Your God: The Conflict Within

Ajay Ghule

During human evolution, as the brain began to evolve, the power of reasoning and the need to 'believe in something' at the individual or community level to ensure survival must have also begun to evolve. Happenings and experiences of achieving a desired objective, as an outcome of 'believing in something', may have reinforced a belief system, which could have been passed down to subsequent generations.

When civilisations began to expand, the concept of 'believing in something' grew beyond merely acquiring food, land, natural resources, or even choosing a suitable mate. The system of 'belief' transgressed into something more profound – belief in the power of a Creator, a Supernatural Being who created us and all other living and non-living beings of the universe, thereby signifying 'Arrival of God' in human space.

The 'belief system' associated with 'Creator' also evolved differently in various parts of the world. 'Belief systems' either brought communities together or separated them into several religions and sects all over the world, depending on which form, variation, or narration of the creator they believed in and worshipped. Besides reasons for conflict over food, land and natural resources, the evolution of different belief systems provided another potential source of human conflict, often interacting with political, economic, and territorial interests. History provides us with enough examples of conflicts involving people with different belief systems.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Assumption of supremacy by a community, over another because of a different 'belief system', appears to have cascaded from the past to our present. The two World Wars, regional wars, and ethnic conflicts, apart from their overt geopolitical causes, demonstrate how ideological, national, ethnic, and at times religious identities can deepen divisions between communities, owing to different faiths and religious practices of warring countries, communities or individuals.

So, as long as we exist, the creator would also need to compete (and perhaps conflict) with its own diverse forms, variations, and narrations as we create or envision them. Did 'conflict' become an unintended and undesirable spin-off of our evolution? Did the creator of universe design it that way? We may never know the answer.

But just as conflict is integral to human DNA, so is peace. So, while different forms of creators continue to coexist, along with different belief systems, the 'conflict within' oneself, communities, and countries over which form of creator is superior must become extinct for peace to prevail.

The writer retired from Indian Navy

A TATA PRODUCT

In that stillness, something shifts.
The inside softens.
The mind slows.
A waiting ingredient draws her back to herself.
Held in the movement of being.
She emerges.

Emergence is a journey revealed,
where all feelings converge before they unfold.
Read less, trust this journey.
Deep blue topaz draws her into stillness.
Petaloid white delicately surrounds her to speak of promises.

She rises to be her centre.
And she feels energy.

emergence

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TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

The Week That Was...

Equity Indices Log Fourth Straight Weekly Gains As Oil Cools

Sensex and Nifty gained about 0.9% this week, extending their 4-week rise, buoyed by lower oil prices and steps to support the rupee and foreign inflows. Sensex closed at 77,764 while Nifty closed at 24,271. On Friday, the IT sector gauge rose 1.8%, snapping a five-week losing streak

Sensex 0.9%

Sensex Gainers

Eternal	10.4%
Bajaj Finserv	7.4%
Bajaj Finance	5.2%

Laggards

L&T	-4.5%
Kotak Bank	-3%
Axis Bank	-2.6%

GOLD 3% | CRUDE -0.1% | BITCOIN 3.4%

13.9%

Was the growth in GST collections in June, amounting to Rs 1,94,812 crore. This was the fastest pace of growth in eight months, driven by imports mop-up

Source: BSE, Reuters, screener.in

Nearly 500 cities set to become next eco hubs: FM

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday described the middle class as the growth engine of India and said nearly 500 cities are poised to emerge as the country's next centres of economic activity.

Participating in a panel discussion on 'How to promote the rise of a new middle class' at the Rencontres Economiques d'Aix-en-Provence, a major economic forum of France, Sitharaman said 31% of India's population is middle class as of today.

"We think 93% of all spending in India will be because of the middle class or the slightly affluent consumers...and again, this middle class is not concentrated in our metropolitan cities...India's model has resulted in the development in such a way that the middle class is present not just in big cities but they are on the contrary in these tier two, tier three cities," the finance minister said. Quoting an OECD study, Sitharaman said India will surpass China in absolute terms in its middle-class population size between 2030 and 2035 on the back of several measures taken by govt. Stressing that India remains the fastest-growing large economy after Covid-19, she said, "Nearly 500 cities are poised to emerge as the new centres of economic activity". AGENCIES

Adani Enterprises raises ₹15k cr via QIP

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises has raised Rs 15,000 crore through an upsized qualified institutional placement, marking the largest such fundraise by an Indian corporate, after strong investor demand prompted the company to increase the issue size from its base of Rs 10,000 crore. The proceeds will be used to fund new businesses. TNN

Gold value in reserves falls $5.4bn in a week

Mumbai: India's forex reserves fell by over $5.6 billion in the week ended June 26, due to a sharp fall in the valuation of gold holdings, even as foreign currency assets remained stable. RBI data shows total reserves fell by $5.6 billion to $666.9 billion. The bulk of this decline was driven by a $5.4 billion drop in gold reserves. TNN

Govt may look at a separate legal framework for AI: Secy

Signals Shift From Its Position Of Relying On Existing Laws

Aabhas.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt may examine a dedicated legal framework for artificial intelligence, signalling a significant shift from its long-standing position of relying on existing laws to govern the fast-evolving technology.

At a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on Thursday, ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) secretary S Krishnan said govt believes the time may have come to draft legislation specifically for AI. "We will look at AI regulation when the time is right. It appears the time is getting right and we will start," Krishnan said. "Probably the time has come now to look at a separate legislation for AI. At the ministry level, what we can do is prepare a draft regulation for AI," he added.

The remarks mark the clearest indication yet that the Centre is rethinking its light-touch approach. So far, govt has maintained that existing laws, including the Information Technology Act, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and intermediary rules, are sufficient to address AI-related issues such as deepfakes, misinformation and online harms. Officials have consistently argued that premature regulation could hamper innovation as India builds domestic capabilities through the IndiaAI Mission.

Globally, govts are taking different approaches. The European Union has adopted the AI Act, the world's first comprehensive AI legislation based on risk categories. The UK has opted for a principles-based framework enforced through existing regulators, while the US continues to rely largely on executive actions, voluntary commitments from AI companies and sector-specific oversight. China has introduced targeted rules covering generative AI, recommendation algorithms and deep synthesis technologies.

Separately, Krishnan said India is in discussions with the US govt and Anthropic to secure access to the company's most advanced AI models as it seeks inclusion in a trusted group of countries permitted to use frontier AI systems.

WEIGHING AI CODE OF LAW

"We will look at AI regulation when the time is right... Probably the time has come now to look at a separate legislation for AI...what we can do is prepare a draft regulation for AI

—S KRISHNAN | MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND IT (MEITY) SECRETARY

- EU has adopted AI Act, world's first comprehensive AI legislation based on risk categories
- UK has opted for a principles-based framework enforced via regulators
- US mostly relies on executive actions, voluntary commitments from AI companies
- China has introduced targeted rules covering generative AI

Tata Electronics cybersecurity issue under lens

Govt is investigating reports of a cybersecurity incident involving Tata Electronics, a key supplier in Apple's global manufacturing supply chain, MeitY secretary S Krishnan said on Thursday. "This is also a kind of cybercrime. We are investigating it. It has been reported to us," Krishnan said when asked about the alleged breach. TNN

SAP tightens hiring, travel as investments in AI zoom

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: German software major SAP is tightening hiring, travel and third-party spending as it steps up investments in artificial intelligence, according to an internal email sent to employees.

In the email, SAP said the rapid pace of AI adoption is driving significant investments in AI products, strategic acquisitions and the infrastructure needed to support AI workloads. It also pointed to rising token consumption and related costs as more AI-powered applications are deployed internally and for customers. "As AI reshapes the future of our industry, we are making significant investments in the products and AI capabilities we build, complemented by strategic acquisitions in data and AI where we need additional expertise and technology," the company said in an email to employees.

"We are also investing in how we consume AI across SAP, with token usage and related costs increasing as more AI-driven scenarios go live." To fund these priorities, SAP said it will "exclusively focus new hiring on selected profiles only," primarily core AI roles critical to its long-term strategy.

The company is also evaluating further reductions in third-party spending, saying AI is making both suppliers and internal teams more efficient. As part of the effort, SAP will reintroduce its Spend Council process through its procurement organisation to tighten oversight of external spending.

SAP is also pausing internal travel across the company. However, customer-facing travel, trips directly related to its "All in on AI" programme, and travel for mission-critical AI training for employees will continue. The company stressed that the measures aim to reallocate resources rather than slow growth.

"These measures are not about doing less. They are about making deliberate choices: investing where it matters most—in our people, our customers, and the technologies that define the next era of enterprise software—and being careful and responsible in areas where we can save," the email said. Responding to **TOI's** queries, the company said, "SAP continually reviews its investments to ensure resources are focused on the areas that will drive long-term customer value and innovation. As part of this approach, we are prioritising investments in AI-related capabilities, talent and technologies while applying greater discipline to hiring, external spending and internal travel."

INDIA PRESENCE

- **Bengaluru hosts SAP's largest R&D centre globally,** contributing to 40% of its worldwide R&D activities
- **Currently, SAP employs over 17,000 technologists in India** across product engineering, customer services, and cloud delivery functions

Samsung phones lead in purchase via EMI route

Aabhas.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: For many Indian consumers, owning an iPhone remains a status symbol. So, it would be easy to assume that Apple dominates smartphone purchases made through easy monthly instalments. The reality, however, is quite different.

Samsung is the country's leading smartphone brand in terms of devices sold through financing, followed by Vivo and Apple, according to Counterpoint Research. Oppo and Xiaomi round out the top five, indicating how brands with a strong offline presence are outperforming rivals in fast-growing EMI market. The research firm estimates that financing — including loans from non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) as well as credit and debit card EMIs — will account for 42% of India's smartphone sales in 2026, up from 35% in 2025. The shift comes as rising component costs continue to push up smartphone prices.

"India's smartphone market has remained under pressure in first half of the year due to rising memory prices, and this trend is expected to intensify further. Against this backdrop, smartphone financing is gaining ground as a primary purchase mechanism," said Tarun Pathak, research director at Counterpoint Research. He added that around 67% of financed smartphone sales are backed by NBFCs, with demand particularly strong in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Prachir Singh, senior analyst at Counterpoint, said, "Samsung's strategy to use Samsung Finance+ as well as other financing options is working in its favour." Singh said retail-heavy brands such as Samsung, Vivo and Oppo enjoy higher financing penetration because offline stores allow consumers to better understand loan scheme.

Identify imported goods for mfg, Goyal tells states

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Friday urged states to identify products that are currently imported but can be manufactured competitively in India.

He said such efforts would not only reduce import dependence and save foreign exchange but also strengthen domestic supply chains and reduce vulnerabilities arising from excessive dependence on foreign suppliers.

This suggestion was made by the minister during the meeting of the Board of Trade here.

Minister of state for commerce and industry Jitin Prasada, newly inducted members of the board of trade, ministers and representatives from states and Union territories, export promotion councils, apex industry chambers and non-official members participated in the meeting.

Goyal also urged states, line ministries, EPCs and industry associations to establish export committees, hold regular engagements with exporters and conduct monthly review meetings.

The minister encouraged industries affected by unfair trade practices to approach the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). AGENCIES

Loan growth speeds up in Q1, deposits still lag

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee, Longer Working Cap Cycles Helping Boost Credit

Mayur.Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Credit growth remained elevated across the banking system on a year-on-year basis for the quarter ended June 2026 with few banks reporting advances growing at double the rate of credit growth. In contrast, the wedge between credit and deposit growth widened with some banks (Bank of Baroda, IDBI and RBL) reporting a dip in deposits compared to end March 2026 levels.

Central Bank recorded global advances growth of about 28.8%, followed by Tamilnad Mercantile Bank at 27%, Dhanlaxmi Bank at 26.5%, and J&K Bank at 25.5%. Among large lenders, Bank of India reported advances growth of 18.6%, while Canara Bank posted about 18%, reflecting continued traction in corporate and RAM segments.

RBL Bank reported a 10.2% quarter-on-quarter decline in total deposits. The bank said it took a tactical decision to allow high-cost wholesale deposits to roll off after completing a preferential allotment to Emirates NBD on June 18, 2026, and relied on improved liquidity after the transaction. IDBI Bank reported a 6.3% sequential decline in deposits, with liabilities falling from Rs 3,47,163 crore to Rs 3,25,393 crore. Bank of Baroda reported a 0.9% decline in global deposits and a 0.9% reduction in global advances compared with the March quarter.

Differences in strategy between public and private lenders remain visible. Public sector banks such as Canara Bank and Bank of India maintained a more aligned credit and deposit growth trajectory on a sequential basis, with growth in the range of 2.0% to 4.5% across assets and liabilities. Private banks continued to adjust liability profiles by reducing high-cost bulk deposits to manage margins in a competitive market.

Bankers said that there were several drivers for credit growth in the first quarter, which is typically a lean season for credit. One of the reasons was the introduction of an emergency credit line guarantee scheme. Also working capital cycles grew longer due to supply chain disruptions caused because of the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz following the conflict in West Asia. Oil companies also turned borrowers as net realisations dropped due to the government decision not to pass on increase in crude oil prices to borrowers.

According to Suresh Ganapathy of Macquarie, PSU banks are losing market share on deposits. "Based on 1QFY27 disclosures, deposit growth has been weak for them and deposit growth at 10.7% YoY is weaker than system deposit growth of 12%...That's why some PSU banks stock prices have been weak post business updates," he said.

On the broader bank credit data up to June 15, 2026, Ganapathy said "Deposit growth remains the pressure point, trailing advances at 12.2% YoY. This has widened the credit-deposit growth gap to 5.4% as of May-26, pushing the system loan-to-deposit ratio to 82.7%—which is among the highest levels in over a decade."

'DEPOSIT GROWTH A PRESSURE POINT'

Global Deposits (₹K Cr) | Global Advances (₹K Cr)

Bank Name	Deposits / Adv - Jun'26	YoY Growth (%)
Bank of Baroda	1,633.8	14
	1,417.4	17
Canara Bank	1,612.6	12
	1,293.2	18
Bank of India	958.1	15
	797.8	19
Central Bk of India	478.9	12
	354.9	29
IDBI Bank	325.4	10
	259	22
RBL Bank	124.8	11
	117.3	21
South Indian Bank	125.8	11
	104.4	17
Jammu & Kashmir Bk	173.4	17
	130.6	26
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	64.4	20
	57.3	27
Dhanlaxmi Bank	19.4	17
	15.8	26

Source: Bank filings

Factory floor emerges as new cyber battleground

Vaitheeswaran.B
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Cyberattacks on two major Indian manufacturing facilities recently have highlighted growing cyber risks facing India's factory floors once again.

Bajaj Auto and one of its subsidiaries reported a ransomware attack that affected parts of their IT systems on June 23, while Tata Electronics disclosed a cyber breach a day earlier. Both companies said they activated incident response protocols and took steps to contain the incidents.

The back-to-back attacks underline how cyber threats are becoming a business risk rather than just an IT problem, as manufacturers embrace automation, connected factories and AI-driven operations. Vikash Yadav, head of enterprise for India at Kaspersky, said manufacturing remains one of the most targeted sectors.

According to Kaspersky's latest Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Threat Landscape report for the first quarter of 2026, manufacturing was the only major industry where the share of attacked industrial control systems increased globally, with Southeast Asia recording the highest level of such attacks.

"Threat actors are increasingly targeting internet-facing operational technology at remote sites," Yadav said. "As factories become more connected, they present a larger attack surface for ransomware groups, advanced persistent threat actors and supply-chain attackers exploiting smaller vendors."

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has also urged organisations to strengthen vulnerability management, network segmentation, multi-factor authentication and continuous monitoring as AI makes cyberattacks more sophisticated.

Debashish Roy, chief digital and technology officer at CEAT, said many shop floors still rely on legacy equipment that were never designed with cybersecurity in mind. "Companies need stronger separation between IT and operational technology networks while using AI at the edge so innovation does not come at the cost of security," he said, adding that attacks on production systems can halt manufacturing, compromise worker safety and disrupt business continuity.

The implications go beyond production losses. While Tata Electronics and Bajaj Auto said operations remained unaffected, Reuters reported that the breach at Tata Electronics' Hosur facility allegedly exposed confidential Apple and Tesla information, including component details and images of unreleased Apple products.

Srinivas L, joint CEO of 63SATS Cybertech, said India's ambitions under the China-plus-one strategy depend as much on protecting intellectual property as on expanding manufacturing capacity. "If India acquires a reputation for IP leaks, it could erode the trust that underpins the China-plus-one opportunity," he said, adding that going ahead sector-specific cybersecurity guidelines and stronger incident reporting through CERT-In would improve resilience.

CYBERATTACKS HIT MFG PUSH

- Threats to Indian plants and industrial control systems are rising sharply, including **AI-powered attacks**; Many attacks are beginning with basic gaps
- Integration of internet, **IoT, robotics, MES systems & real-time monitoring and AI-driven operations** expose legacy assets to vulnerabilities
- Cybersec decisions should move from the **IT realm to the boardrooms**
- Alleged breach of industrial **IPs of global OEMs undermines Indian efforts**

MPEDA in talks with Quikjet Cargo to ferry tuna from Andamans to B'luru

Yogesh.Kabirdoss
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Union ministry of commerce and industry, is in discussions with Quikjet Cargo Airlines to ferry tuna from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Bengaluru. The move is part of a strategy to promote tuna exports from the islands, which are estimated to have rich fishery resources, particularly tuna and other high-value species, with a potential of around 60,000 metric tonnes.

MPEDA chairman **P Jawahar** said the fisheries department of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has already sought the authority's technical expertise and support in formulating an export strategy for tuna.

"There is a proposal from Bengaluru-headquartered Quikjet Cargo Airlines, which is interested in flying tuna from the Andamans to Bengaluru. Bengaluru is a major gateway for the export of perishables due to its strong forward and backward linkages, as well as connectivity to airports across the world. The airline has already evinced interest in ferrying fresh tuna from Andaman waters," he told **TOI** in an interview on the sidelines of the three-day Seafood Expo Bharat 2026 organised in Chennai.

Private entrepreneurs are showing interest in primary processing of tuna on board fishing vessels to convert it into 'sashimi-grade' fish

Private entrepreneurs are also showing interest in carrying out primary processing of tuna on board fishing vessels to convert it into 'sashimi-grade' fish. "At present, it does not fetch a high price. One kilogram of Indian tuna fetches anywhere between $1.5 and $2 in the international market. If we can make it sashimi grade, we will be getting close to $10 per kilogram. Its value increases fivefold when it is subjected to value addition, provided the tuna receives the right treatment immediately after it is caught," he said.

MPEDA is also launching two tuna missions in Visakhapatnam and the Andamans. "The pilot initiative is going to give us a lot of feedback for scaling up tuna operations," he added.

HCLTech wins $1.1bn on AI-led deal with Mercedes-Benz; shares rise nearly 6%

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: HCLTech shares rose nearly 6% on the BSE on Friday after the IT firm announced a $1.1 billion mega deal with a Europe-based Fortune Global 50 enterprise, which people in the know told **TOI** is Mercedes-Benz. The agreement is among the largest AI-led deals announced by an Indian IT firm this year and underscores the growing scale of enterprise investments in AI.

The people said Infosys previously handled parts of the engagement. The deal will see HCLTech establish an AI-driven operating model to transform and manage the automaker's global digital workplace and enterprise network operations. The agreement runs from July 2026 through Dec 2031, with an option to extend it by another five years.

HCLTech did not disclose the customer's identity. When contacted by **TOI**, a Mercedes-Benz spokesperson declined to comment. "We kindly ask for your understanding that Mercedes-Benz does not comment on deal specifics," the spokesperson said.

The announcement comes just months after HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar said the company was seeing a healthy pipeline of large transformation deals despite macroeconomic uncertainty. Speaking after the March-quarter results in April, he said clients were increasingly moving beyond AI pilots and committing to enterprise-scale deployments focused on productivity gains and cost optimisation.

At the same time, the company highlighted what it called "AI-led deflation," estimating that AI-driven automation could reduce traditional revenue streams by 2-3% annually as projects require fewer people and become more efficient. While this is shrinking the size of conventional IT services contracts, HCLTech believes demand is shifting toward higher-value AI-led transformation programmes. To capture that opportunity, the company has been scaling its advanced AI portfolio, which has reached an annualised revenue run rate of $620 million. Management expects AI-native services to grow 25-30% in the near term.

"The total contract value of net new bookings for the year clocked $9.3 billion, the same as last year, in spite of some of the AI deflation that you see in the TCV of net new bookings," Vijayakumar said during the April earnings call. HCLTech has also invested heavily in AI skills, training 135,000 employees in GenAI technologies, along with 11,800 AI builders and more than 700 AI transformation black belts to support large-scale enterprise AI deployments.

Bangalore Times

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Paraguay Out to Erase 1998 Heartbreak Against France

Getty Images

GOLDEN GOAL: France's Laurent Blanc (left) scores to settle the 1998 WC Round of 16 match against Paraguay

New York: France arrive in Philadelphia as the World Cup's most feared attacking force, but Kylian Mbappe and coach Didier Deschamps have warned that acclaim, records and a seemingly clear path mean little if they fail to stay grounded against Paraguay in Saturday's last-16 clash.

Les Bleus have won all four matches, scored 13 goals and conceded two, with Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele, and Bradley Barcola netting 12 of them. A bench containing Rayan Cherki, Desire Doue and Jean-Philippe Mateta gives Deschamps options most opponents can only envy.

"I'm fully aware of what's at stake, where I am and what I have to do," Mbappe said after scoring twice in Tuesday's 3-0 win over Sweden. "The team know what they have to do here as well. A new competition is starting."

Deschamps has warned Paraguay's victory against Germany was no fluke. "I've watched Paraguay: what they have achieved is no accident," he said. "It is a typical South American team, strong in the duels and very tenacious, and they also have players of great quality. No team reaches the last 16 of the World Cup by chance."

The heat could add another layer to a match in which France are expected to dominate possession and Paraguay to defend deep, conserve energy and wait for their moments to strike. With temperatures set to be oppressive in Philadelphia, concentration, game management and the ability to use substitutions wisely will be crucial. Cherki could be one of France's late-game aces.

The Manchester City playmaker has been restricted to 55 minutes across four matches as Mbappe, Dembele and Olise have flourished, but his creativity could be invaluable if France encounter the kind of stubborn, low-block resistance Paraguay are likely to offer.

His frustration after a brief appearance against Sweden drew attention in France, but the 22-year-old Cherki knows he is competing with players in exceptional form.

For Paraguay, Saturday is a chance to avenge a wound that has not fully healed since 1998. For France, it is another test of whether the team drawing comparisons with the game's great attacking sides can keep their feet on the ground long enough to join them. REUTERS

Round of 16
PARAGUAY VS FRANCE
2:30 am (Sun) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Canada bid to extend dream run

Houston: Canada's remarkable World Cup adventure has already secured their team a place in the country's sporting folklore and on Saturday they face Morocco, semifinalists in 2022, with a place in the quarterfinals at stake.

Making only their third World Cup appearance, Canada have captured the imagination of a country more accustomed to celebrating ice hockey heroes than soccer stars. Their talisman Alphonso Davies played his first minutes at the tournament in the round-of-32 victory over South Africa as a substitute and could start in Houston on Saturday. The pressure that may have burdened Canada before the tournament has largely evaporated and no matter what result they get against Morocco, they have broken numerous records — including earning their first World Cup point and winning their first game. That sense of freedom may be one of their greatest assets. Morocco, however, are unlikely to be swayed by sentiment.

Round of 16
CANADA VS MOROCCO
10.30 pm (Sat) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

AFP

Morocco players train in Houston

If Canada have emerged as one of the tournament's feelgood stories, Morocco arrived with much loftier ambitions. Four years ago in Qatar they became the first African nation to reach a World Cup semifinal, defeating heavyweights Spain and Portugal in their dream run to finish fourth. Far from being satisfied with that groundbreaking achievement, the Atlas Lions have proved four years later that Qatar was no anomaly, drawing with Brazil to top their group before eliminating European heavyweights the Netherlands in the round of 32.

Organised, athletic and technically gifted, they have progressed here with the confidence of a team who believe another deep run is possible.

Canada are playing in entirely new territory, fuelled by momentum and enthusiasm. Morocco's squad still contains many of the leaders from their run to the 2022 semifinals. "If we get things wrong, we'll go home," Morocco manager Mohamed Ouahbie said. "We need to ensure that we have all the tools and we're using the tools in our arsenal to go as far as we can." AGENCIES

THE AGONY BEFORE THE DREAM CAME ALIVE

Almost everyone who has kicked a football dreams of playing in a World Cup. But there are some who had to overcome incredible circumstances to get there. The 2026 World Cup is no different, with several heroes who beat the odds even before the first ball was kicked.

ORLANDO GILL (Paraguay)

Gill **nearly quit football before he became Paraguay's hero** against Germany. In 2024, **Gill's son was born premature.** Gill and his wife had to sleep in their car outside the hospital as they **could not afford medical fees. Gill had to sell off everything he owned,** including his U-20 Paraguay World Cup shirt.

YOANE WISSA (DR Congo)

DR Congo star was the **victim of an acid attack** in 2021 while playing for Lorient in France. The attack which left him almost blind, was an attempt to kidnap his newborn daughter. **Doctors were doubtful if he would ever be able to see again,** but Wissa made a return to football in just six months.

EDIN DZEKO (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Edin Dzeko's **childhood was defined by war.** Born in Sarajevo, Dzeko was just six when the Siege of Sarajevo began during which his **family home was destroyed.** His mother once forbade him from going out to play and that day, **a bomb hit his playground killing several kids.** He went on to earn 150 caps for Bosnia.

ROMELU LUKAKU (Belgium)

Despite Lukaku's father being a former professional footballer for Zaire (now DR Congo), he **had a very hard childhood. His mother had to mix water with milk** and the **family had to "borrow" bread from a bakery.** He would end up being one of the most expensive strikers in the history of the game.

SADIO MANE (Senegal)

Sadio Mane was born in a remote village in Senegal. **His father died due to an illness which could have been cured had there been a hospital in the village.** Poverty eventually made Mane leave home at the age of 15. After his success, **Mane went on to build a hospital in his village.**

Compiled by **Dorian Melwin**

KRAMNIK GETS 2-YEAR BAN

Former world chess champion Vladimir Kramnik has been handed a two-year ban by FIDE's Ethics & Disciplinary Commission, with the second year suspended for a three-year probation period. As a result, Kramnik will serve an active one-year suspension from all FIDE competitions and is barred from working as an arbiter, organiser, coach, trainer or chess federation representative during that period. He has also been directed to complete 12 months of unpaid service for the benefit of the chess community. The commission found Kramnik guilty of multiple violations, including bullying, cyberbullying, failure to uphold role-model standards, psychological abuse, false accusations and making reckless allegations of cheating against fellow players, including late grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky and David Navara. Kramnik rejected the verdict, calling it unlawful and vowing to challenge the decision through every available legal avenue in a bid to clear his name and restore his reputation. TNN

SNAP SHOTS

DIKSHA IN JOINT LEAD

Diksha Dagar opened with a 4-under 68 to share the lead with three others while Aditi Ashok carded 2-under 70 to be at tied seventh at the Hulencourt Women's Open in Belgium. Avani Prashanth shot even par 72 and was T-24 while Pranavi Urs (73) was T-33.

Hamilton on sprint pole: Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton took pole position for Saturday's British Grand Prix sprint race with Mercedes's F1 leader Kimi Antonelli alongside on the front row. Hamilton finished with a best lap of one minute 28.376 seconds. Italian teenager Antonelli was 0.011 slower.

Sudharsan, Padikkal power India 'A': Opener Sai Sudharsan notched up a second successive hundred as India 'A' finished Day 2 of the four-day match at 247/1 in Galle on Friday. **Brief scores: Sri Lanka 'A': 366 in 110 overs** (Sahan 127; Saransh 4-92, Gurnoor 4-77) **vs India 'A': 247/1 in 63 overs** (Sai Sudharsan 104 batting, Devdutt Padikkal 94 batting).

Gukesh shares second spot: World champion D Gukesh beat Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri in the final game of the day to rise to joint second spot in the Grand Chess Tour in Croatia. R Praggnanandhaa, Giri and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan were joint third.

Tanya, Aakarshi lose: Tanya Hemnath and Aakarshi Kashyap lost their second round matches to draw curtains to the Indian challenge at the Canada Open. Tanya lost to Riko Gunji 11-21, 11-21 while Aakarshi fell to Beiwen Zhang 22-20, 17-21, 17-21.

Santosh shines: A Santhosh Singh scored four goals as Mercurial FC scored a 9-0 win against Revolt FC in the KSFA 'D' Division League Championship in Bengaluru. **Results:** FCA Bengaluru 2 (M Koushik 14, Kishore V 39) bt Ramamurthy Nagar FC 1 (Haridass Munusamy 9); Mercurial FC 9 (Pranav Arun 4; Ram Phatak 10; A Santhosh Singh 14, 16, 19, 29; Mithil Janardhan 18, 25; Mohan Bahadur B 20) bt Revolt FC 0; Power Play 0 drew with KGF FC 0; Willow Sports FC 1 (N Chandan Raj 24) bt Gajendra Nagar FC 0; Hyper FC 1 (Navaneeth DV 28) bt Mysuru United FC 0; TFF 2 (Musa 1, Joel 20+1) bt FC Real Bengaluru 1 (Abinas SS 14); Bangalore Saints FC 2 (Rohith M 17, Sireesh 40) bt Spodemy FC 1 (Akbar Basha 16); Zenit Intl FA 8 (Jangminpao Haokip 1, 31; Kamgoulen Khongsai 10, 14; R Menush 13, 20; Jangminthang Haokip 27; Sarathy G 30) bt VPS FC 0.

Djoko digs deep to equal record

TIMES OF INDIA AT WIMBLEDON
Prajwal.Hegde@timesofindia.com

Getty Images

IN THE GROOVE: Novak Djokovic celebrates after his victory

Late in the opening set of his Wimbledon third-round match, Novak Djokovic, slightly off balance, flung himself to his right to meet a volley, placing it perfectly for a winner. Seconds later, the supple 39-year-old was back on his feet, taking a bow on Centre Court before turning to the crowd and asking for more love. In the stands, his son Stefan leapt in animated celebration, completing what is increasingly becoming the Djokovic show.

More than three hours later, after 225 points and 41 games of gripping tennis, Djokovic was taking another bow. This time, both he and his opponent Arthur Rinderknech were sprawled on the grass after the Serbian flicked a winner past the giant Frenchman to seal victory. Djokovic was the first back on his feet, striding around the net to embrace and applaud Rinderknech, nine years his junior, whose fearless performance had pushed the 24-time major champion further than he would've liked.

Djokovic, who walked out in his GOAT blazer looking every inch the seven-time Wimbledon champion, shifted gears at just the right moments to earn a 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4) victory over the 30-year-old Frenchman and book his place in the fourth round, where he will face the world No. 132 and qualifier Roman Safiullin.

"A bit of luck, a bit of skill, in the end," Djokovic said when asked how he had got the job done. "It was pretty much a flawless tie-break from my side. I did everything I could. I think I served extremely well, only in the tie-break. For most of the match, I struggled with that serve." "But it was also due to his quality. He's very tall, he hit some incredible serves. It was a really tiring, really close match. Sometimes you just have to find a way to win, and I'm happy I did that today."

Friday's victory, which featured 107 winners -- 67 of them from Rinderknech -- saw Djokovic draw level with Roger Federer's record of 105 singles match wins on the men's draw at Wimbledon. The pair trail only Martina Navratilova, who holds the all-time mark with 120 victories at the grass-court major.

At this stage of his career, Djokovic prefers to conserve energy. The seven-time champion said he hopes his body continues to cooperate as the tournament progresses. "I think I've done everything I needed to do today, under circumstances that weren't maybe as good for me as they were in the second round, and it was still enough to win," he said. "At this age and stage in my career, every day brings something new and unpredictable for me. I'm hoping that I will come out at my best in a few days' time."

FONSECA, JODAR BOW OUT

It was not the best of days for the two 19-year-olds left in the men's draw. Rafael Jodar and Joao Fonseca, seeded 23rd and 24th respectively, were both outplayed by qualifiers Shintaro Mochizuki and Safiullin.

Fonseca, sluggish in both movement and shot-making on the day, looked like someone forced to function without their morning coffee as he bowed out 3-6, 3-6, 3-6 to comeback man Safiullin.

Safiullin, who was ranked as high as No. 36 and reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2023, had to cut short his 2025 season in September after injuring his knee. He arrived at this year's championships without a tour-level win in 2026. But after battling through qualifying, the Russian has reeled off three strong victories, over Andrey Rublev, Botic van de Zandschulp and now Fonseca, to book his place in the round-of-16.

Jodar, meanwhile, went down 6-1, 6-7 (5), 4-6, 4-6 to Shintaro Mochizuki, the world No. 151.

Samson, Tilak under radar

Manchester: With Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathing down his neck, **Sanju Samson** will be under pressure to turn the frequent busts in his performance graph into consistent booms as India take on England in the second T20I here on Saturday. The first game was abandoned after India posted a healthy 189/7 at the Chester-Le-Street in Durham, riding on half-centuries from Abhishek Sharma and skipper Shreyas Iyer.

However, the focus of attention during the next few games would be Sanju Samson and whether he can weather the Sooryavanshi storm that is building up on the sidelines.

INDIA VS ENGLAND

In an alternate universe, three back-to-back match-winning knocks in India's T20 World Cup triumph would have given Kerala's most 'globally followed' sporting icon a cushion for a year. But with Indian cricket discovering the generational talent of Sooryavanshi, Samson's margin for error has become minimal and the T20 World Cup halo alone can't save him.

With Abhishek Sharma smashing his way to 49 and 59 in two of the last three games, the pressure is entirely on Samson to get some runs under his belt.

In the opening game that was washed out, Samson looked miserable scoring a single run off seven balls and not for once did it seem that he is trying to take the high-risk high-reward route.

While the team management is firm on not pushing the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi but he possibly can't be kept cooling his heels if this continues for another couple of games. However, it is not just Samson who is struggling in this batting order. The highly talented Tilak Varma's held-back approach in the middle overs is also an issue. Varma simply seems incapable of pushing the scoring rate once slow bowlers come into operation or seamers take pace off their deliveries.

In 12 T20I games in 2026, Varma has been able to hit only 12 sixes -- which is one per game. And that statistic is poor for anyone who is seen as a finisher. The bowling department is unlikely to feature any changes as Old Trafford track offers some grip and wrist spinners have had a good time at the venue. PTI

Live, Sony Sports Network, 7pm IST

Sciver-Brunt, Knight send Eng into final

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt led from the front on her return from injury with a superb 75 in a 40-run Women's T20 World Cup semifinal thrashing of South Africa at the Oval on Thursday. England, sent in to bat, slumped 23/3 inside four overs in front to spark fears of yet another knockout loss in a showpiece event. But Sciver-Brunt counter-attacked. She received excellent support from former skipper Heather Knight (58) as the two turned the tide with a fourth-wicket partnership of 133 that took their team to a total of 169/5.

England will play Australia in Sunday's final at Lord's. **Brief scores: England: 169/5 in 20 overs** (Nat Sciver-Brunt 75, Heather Knight 58; Shabnim Ismail 2-31, Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-25) bt **South Africa: 129/8 in 20 overs** (Tazmin Brits 51; Lauren Bell 2-28, Charlie Dean 2-31). AFP

Nyra sparkles on Day 1

Bengaluru: **Nyra Bopanna** stole the limelight on the opening day as she picked up three gold medals at the State Sub-Junior Swimming Championship in Mangaluru on Friday. Competing in the girls' Group C2 13-year-old category, the SwimLife Academy girl touched the pad in 4:47.41s to claim top honours in the 400m freestyle.

Nyra clinched her second gold in the 200m backstroke, clocking 2:34.34. She added a third in the 100m freestyle title, winning in 1:03.63. Nyra rounded off the day with a silver medal in the girls' 4x100m medley relay event. Meanwhile, in the boys' section, S Krish clinched a double. After winning the 50m butterfly event in 27.31s, the Basavangudi Aquatic Centre swimmer clocked 55.72s to win the 100m freestyle event.

SWIMMING

Results (winners): Boys: Group C1 (14 yrs): 400m fs: Shreyas Sunil (SSA, 4:19.78); **100m breaststroke:** Chetan Nagaraja Ganapa (NAC, 1:10.26); **200m backstroke:** Shlok S Jadhav (SC, Belagavi, 2:25.34); **50m butterfly:** S Krish (BAC, 27.31); **100m fs:** S Krish (BAC, 55.72). **Gp C2 (13 yrs): 400m fs:** Pavan Krishnaa N (BAC, 4:26.10); **100m breaststroke:** Tanush Thejasvi Murthy (BAC, 1:17.35); **200m backstroke:** Lohitashwa Nagesh (Lakshyan, 2:27.48); **50m butterfly:** Siddhanth Honnappa (BAC, 30.34); **100m fs:** Amith H Pavan (Jirs, 57.06). **Gp D1 (12 yrs): 400m fs:** Aveek Namit Gowda (Matsya, 4:49.11); **100m breaststroke:** Daniel Emmanuel Saldanha (BAC, 1:18.86); **100m fs:** Vivaan Krishna TS (Ray, 1:01.96). **Gp D2 (11 yrs): 400m fs:** Ishaan Pal (NMSA, 5:06.53); **100m breaststroke:** Lochan Vedanth (GSC, 1:31.50); **100m fs:** Ishaan Pal (NMSA, 1:07.41). **Gp C (13-14 yrs): 4x100m medley relay:** BAC A (S Krish, Tanush Thejasvi Murthy, Rajath Satish Naik, Nikhil Tej Reddy, 4:30.29). **Girls: Gp C1 (14 yrs): 400m fs:** Idika Bhat (Zee, 4:45.97); **100m breaststroke:** Inchara HR (LAOS, 1:19.35); **200m backstroke:** Sumedha Venigalla (Dolphin, 2:35.50); **50m butterfly:** Manya R Wadhwa (DA, 30.28); **100m fs:** Idika Bhat (ZSA, 1:02.36). **Gp C2 (13 yrs): 400m fs:** Nyra Bopanna K (SSA, 4:47.41); **100m breaststroke:** Drithi Abhilash (BAC, 1:25.68); **200m backstroke:** Nyra Bopanna K (SSA, 2:34.34); **50m butterfly:** Shwiti Diwakar Suvarna (BAC, 30.83); **100m fs:** Nyra (SSA, 1:03.63). **Gp D1 (12 yrs): 400m fs:** Jhanva Sisodiya (Ekalavya, 5:02.02); **100m breaststroke:** Rithanya S (BAC, 1:23.55); **100m fs:** Gayathri Somayaji (SSA, 1:05.90). **Gp D2 (11 yrs): 400m fs:** Avni D Nallode (NAC, 5:09.73); **100m breaststroke:** Sara Ashokkumar (NAC, 1:27.12); **100m fs:** Avni D Nallode (NAC, 1:09.28). **Gp C (13-14 yrs): 4x100m medley relay:** BAC (Arudra P, Drithi Abhilash, Shwiti Diwakar Suvarna, Stuti Singh, 4:52.90s). TNN

Circle Of Dreams best

Bengaluru: The Sulaiman Attaollahi-trained Circle of Dreams, ridden by Akshay Kumar, looks best for The DM Kumaraswamy Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races here on Saturday. The first race starts at 2.30 pm.

1. The Mauritius Pearl Plate 1400M: Shining Dawn1, Yarra Yarra 2.

2. The Skyline Plate (Div III) 1400M: Whitney 1, Double Scotch 2.

HORSE RACING

3. The Veterinarian's Cup 1200M: Aphelion 1, Aatherv 2. **4. The DM Kumaraswamy Memorial Trophy 1600M:** Circle Of Dreams 1, Manwar 2. **5. The Skyline Plate (Div II) 1400M:** Glaze 1, Diesel 2. **6. The Skyline Plate (Div I) 1400M:** Sherlock 1, Vorfreude 2. **Day's best:** Aphelion. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 **Mini Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5 & 6 **First Treble:** 1, 2 & 3 **Second Treble:** 4, 5 & 6. TNN

Modhe stars for FUCC

Bengaluru: Skipper **Dhruv Modhe** (107 n.o & 2/17) led from the front with an all-round effort to power Friends Union CC (1) to a 39-run win over Sangam Cricket Association in the KSCA U-19 Inter-Club tournament here recently.

Asked to bat, Friends rode on Modhe's unbeaten ton to post 232/5 in 50 overs. After losing opener Thushar Khande (9) in the 10th over, Rachit Das and the right-handed Modhe stitched together the highest partnership for Friends — adding 81 runs off 117 deliveries. While Rachit struck a patient 72-ball 52, Modhe's 133-ball knock was laced with 10 boundaries and two sixes.

In reply, Sangam CA folded up for 193 in 46.2 overs. Dhruv Mohan led the attack with a four-wicket haul, while Modhe lent apt support, picking up two wickets to wrap up a comprehensive outing.

Brief scores: Friends Union CC (1): 232/5 in 50 overs (Rachit Das 52, Dhruv Modhe 107 n.o. (133b; 10x4, 2x6), Aniriwinya V 3-47) bt **Sangam CA: 193 all out in 46.2 overs** (Dishanth N 35, Syed Amin 42, Aakrish Kumar 30; Dhruv Mohan 4-48, Modhe 2-17). **Mathikere CC: 357/5 in 50 overs** (Mahith Bandi 33, Rafa Ballachanda 141 (122b; 13x4, 1x6), Aditya Danganavar 128 n.o. (100b; 19x4), Lohith Gowda 31) bt **Jawahar SC (2): 175 all out in 33 overs** (Raibath Raipalli 27, Hruday Gowdru 30, Satvik Dummi 28; Shishir 2-16, Shreyas Shetty 2-0). **Young Cricketers (1): 154 all out in 32.3 overs** (Chinmai R 50, Aalapkrishna Manikandan 30 n.o; Sandeep Agri 6-55, Kushal Pasupuleti 2-36) lost to

U-19 INTER-CLUB

Bangalore Star CA: 155/4 in 25.5 overs (Harshith Karan 39, Pruthvi Raj 56; Yashas HR 2-53, Navaneeth Kothapalli 2-33). **Jayanagar Cricketers: 196 all out in 43.4 overs** (Siddanth Patil 71; Abhijith Karanth 3-57, Neil Bhatnagar 2-35, Ujwal Gowda 2-15, Aatish Balaji 2-34) lost to **Bangalore United CC (1): 197/5 in 31.2 overs** (Adhrit Rao 56, Ashutosh Gejji 38, Aarav Adiga 43 n.o.; Suhaan Bhandary 4-47). **Herons CC: 242 all out in 46.5 overs** (Ashwath Gade 28, Diganth K 65, Rishi Nandan 58; Dhavan Srijan 2-22, Rinkesh Khatri 2-28, Supraket Das 3-59) bt **South End SC: 68 all out in 18.4 overs** (Arnav Mewundi 6-9, Arav Vijay 2-20) by 174 runs. **Bangalore SC: 268 all out in 48.1 overs** (Arnav Sharma 87, Arush Jain 42, Rithvik Kulasekar 33, Raunak 29, Samarth Rayabagi 29; Shaurya Tiwari 4-80, Ahan KP 3-65) bt **Vijaya CC, Malur: 167 all out in 40.5 overs** (Kutam Ram 43; Krishna 3-33, Arush Jain 2-41, Shaurya NS 2-26). **Johnson CC: 152 all out in 32.5 overs** (Taran MM 56; Pushkara Simha 3-21, Karthikeya PS 3-39) bt **Whirlwind Cricketers: 102 all out in 29 overs** (Aayush Chourasia 3-26, Suprith KN 3-32, Puneeth Raj 3-13). **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 285/5 in 50 overs** (Rahul S 29, Abhiraj S 58, Niranjan Ashok 85, Arnav Dere 89 n.o.; Phanni Chandra 4-53) bt **Visweswarampuram CC (2): 97 all out in 34.3 overs** (Roshan Shinde 26, Roshan Naveen 30; Chethan C 3-14, Kishor Adhikari 2-13, Jeevan Krishna 3-10). **Bharath CC: 279/9 in 50 overs** (Vedant Kumar 50, Aadrith 75, Shreyas Subramanya 41; Ayush Saha 3-50, Shamik Sagar 2-20) bt **Wilson Garden CC: 212 all out in 48.3 overs** (MV Kiran 62, Sujaybhushan Patil 62, Manish John 28; Aadrith 3-40, Bhuvan Basidoni 2-58, Tejas Subramanya 3-21). **Malleswaram Gymkhana: 285 all out in 45.3 overs** (Anudeep Bayary 71, Karthick Veeran 29, Brahmanya Kuber 94, Govind Balaji 28; Bandhav Raju 3-44, Harshvardhan Shahi 3-42) bt **Friends Union CC (2): 111 all out in 31.1 overs** (Harshvardhan Shahi 35; Aarush Mishra 2-23, Yuva M 5-25, Hemanth Prasad 2-14). **Palar SC, Kolar: 104 all out in 32.3 overs** (Rathin Sanjay 40; Naveen Reddy 2-29, Sunny Kanchi 3-21, Mohammad Rayan 3-23, Kashish Bahuguna 2-13) lost to **Young Lions Club: 108/8 in 30.2 overs** (Leshan S 5-24, Charan Reddy 2-9). TNN

Ritesh powers Warriors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hubballi: Ritesh Bhatkal's unbeaten 75 off 42 balls was the highlight of Mysore Warriors' three-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20

MAHARAJA TROPHY

on Friday. Chasing 197 for victory, the Warriors completed the chase with three deliveries to spare.

The 33-year-old Ritesh dug deep, and his unbeaten innings included four fours and five maximums. He was supported by Manoj Bhandage (24). Ritesh played a composed innings even as the Mystics' bowling attack, which included Nathan D'Mello (3/38), Paras Gurbax Arya (2/24), and Ronit More (2/41), applied constant pressure.

Brief scores: Gulbarga Mystics 196/7 in 20 overs (Macneil Noronha 27, Dhruv Prabhakar 51, Thippa Reddy 51, Manish Pandey 41 n.o; Arbind Rai 3-31, Lavish Kaushal 3-21) lost to **Mysore Warriors 197/7 in 19.3 overs** (Ritesh Bhatkal 75 n.o, Lankesh KP 29; Nathan D'Mello 3-38, Paras Gurbax Arya 2-24, Ronit More 2-41).

IRENE, GAURAV TRIUMPH

Irene Anna Subhash and Gaurav Gowda won the U-15 girls and U-17 boys titles respectively at the Karnataka state ranking table tennis tournament in Mangaluru on Friday. **Results: (U-15) Girls: Final:** Irene Anna Subhash bt Mihika Udupa 13-11, 11-9, 11-6. **Semis:** Irene bt Krisha Karkera 7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8; Mihika bt Vibha Tavakari 11-7, 11-8, 11-6. **U-17 Boys: Final:** Gaurav Gowda bt Tamoghna Mundargi 11-8, 11-7, 11-6. **Semis:** Gaurav bt Shubham Trivedi 5-11, 11-5, 11-5, 9-11, 11-5; Tamoghna bt Aarnav Naveen 11-8, 11-13, 7-11, 11-7, 11-5. TNN

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GOAL RUSH

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"IT'S A GAME IF YOU DON'T WIN, YOU GO HOME. BUT, FOR ME, ESPECIALLY, I LOVE THOSE TYPE OF MOMENTS, I WANT TO PLAY EVERY GAME LIKE THAT, I WANT TO BE IN THE BIG MOMENT."

— **GONCALO RAMOS,** PORTUGAL STRIKER, WHO SCORED THE WINNER AGAINST CROATIA

THE LAST DANCE

VAR Decided The Portugal-Croatia Tie, But It Was Also One Where Cristiano And Modric Duelled One Final Time

Dwaipayan.Datta
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WAIT FOR ME! Cristiano Ronaldo (R) consoles Luka Modric after the Rd of 32 clash in Toronto

Two celestial bodies orbited each other, a thousand cameras waited with bated breath, paused for them to come together. As Luka Modric, destroyed after a soul-crushing defeat to end a scintillating two-decade-old international career, acknowledged the wishes of his Portuguese rivals, Cristiano Ronaldo did his customary handshakes, the relief writ large all over his face.

The snickometer, a microchip in the ball, a technology introduced in Qatar 2022 but not the most common tool in use, had just disallowed Croatia's late equalizer in the Round of 32's biggest draw to help Portugal win the thriller 2-1 in Toronto. Ronaldo had converted a penalty past the hour before being subbed off and Goncalo Ramos' injury-time header took Portugal through to a mouth-watering Round of 16 meeting with old Iberian foe, Spain, also European champions.

PORTUGAL	2
Ronaldo 68 (p), Ramos 90+4	
CROATIA	1
Perisic 53	

4 This is the fourth comeback win in the knockout stages of this World Cup, the most in a single tournament since 1970. The only World Cup edition with more comeback KO stage wins is 1934 (6 such wins). Interestingly, this was Portugal's first comeback win at a World Cup KO stage game since 1966 vs North Korea.

But for now, it was about Ronaldo and Modric.

The ageless Croatian had said before the World Cup that he would retire after the showpiece event, Katia Aveiro, sister of the indefatigable Portuguese all but confirmed that this would be his brother's "last dance". As the shadows grew longer in Ontario, the two masters -- club mates once, rivals now -- finally greeted each other after it was won and lost. A hug, a couple of words, a moment of mutual appreciation — summed up all those years of toil they had put in together. Ronaldo arrived at Real Madrid in 2009 and Modric joined four years later. Together they forged a unit that won the storied Spanish club four Champions League titles in five years. Modric was amomg the chief architects behind the unbelievable stardom that Ronaldo went on to achieve in those years. The Croatian master may not have always cornered his share of accolades; the high point came in 2018 when he edged out Ronaldo for the Ballon D'Or after winning the Champions League and scripting a memorable World Cup campaign where they finished runners up to France.

Ronaldo, now at Juventus, might have believed he deserved the prize. But eight years later on Thursday, the bitterness, if any, seemed a thing of the past. For now, it was a moment to bask in the mellow light of the remains of the day.

Modric, 40, typically played his part, pulling the strings for Croatia. From passes off deeper positions to flying in the crosses, he seemed desperate to take this Croatian golden generation, now in its twilight, one step further. But ever-changing technology in sport had the final call. A moment that could be one of genuine joy deep, would now forever be etched in Modric's mind as the scar that finally brought the curtains down on a terrific career.

When Josko Gvardiol bundled the ball in, the cameras immediately caught Ronaldo, sitting on the sidelines. If the goal stood, he knew it would have been very difficult for Portugal to pull it back from the fire in extra-time.

Croatia would have had all the momentum in the world and Portugal would have found it very difficult to match the tireless Croatian in midfield.

In the coming week, the test gets sterner with a brilliant Spain standing in the way. Martinez will have his plans on how to make best use of the old master, who usually saves his best — remember that terrific hattrick in 2018? — against the Spaniards. And a large part of the football-verse (which may include old mate Modric too) will be hoping that Cristiano Ronaldo still has one more dance left.

Reuters

AGELESS! Ivan Perisic celebrates after giving Croatia the lead against Portugal

1 Portugal's equaliser was Cristiano Ronaldo's first ever World Cup knockout stage goal. It came in his sixth World Cup. The penalty was also his only touch inside the opposition box in his 81 minutes spent on the pitch.

1 Ronaldo is the first player in history to play in the World Cup knockout stages at 41 years of age or older. In fact, this was the first match in World Cup history to feature two outfield players who were at least 40 years old (teammates or opponents), as Ronaldo faced off against ex Real Madrid teammate Luka Modric. This also implies that Ronaldo is the oldest goal scorer in World Cup knockout stage history (41 years, 147 days).

3 This is the first match in World Cup history to feature three different players who have appeared in more than 20 World Cup matches. They are Cristiano Ronaldo (26), Luka Modric (23), Ivan Perisic (21).

When Josko Gvardiol thought he had rescued Croatia with a dramatic stoppage-time equaliser against Portugal, celebrations erupted. Moments later, VAR intervened. The goal was flagged offside after the Trionda match ball's embedded chip detected the slightest touch from Igor Matanovic in the build-up. The decision once again thrust connected ball technology into the spotlight. TOI looks at how it worked...

TOO MUCH TECH?

The deciding touch

Deep into stoppage time, with Croatia desperately chasing an equaliser, **Ivan Perisic** curled a right-footed inswinging cross from the left. **Matanovic** made the faintest glancing header — a touch so slight that it escaped players, fans and even television replays at first glance. The ball then brushed **Mario Pasalic**'s thigh before reaching Gvardiol, who fired it into the net. Croatia celebrated wildly. Cristiano Ronaldo could only shake his head in disbelief.

VAR began its review. Replays showed Pasalic had been in offside position when the ball reached him. However, it had also struck Portugal's Renato Veiga, raising the possibility that Pasalic might have been onside. The review hinged on one question: **Did Matanovic touch the ball before it reached Veiga?**

It was proven that contact was made by Croatia's Matanovic in the build up to the goal, allowing the referee to correctly determine offside.

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The answer came from the sensor inside the Trionda ball

- Using data transmitted in real time, officials confirmed Matanovic had indeed made contact. Since Pasalic was offside when a Croatian player last touched the ball, the goal had to be disallowed.
- The referee was sent to the pitch side monitor before making the announcement over the stadium's public-address system.

Trionda ball has a **14g sensor** embedded in one of its panels

*"Croatia player number 20 touched the ball... **Final decision: offside."***

The Trionda chip

- Much like cricket's Snickometer, the Trionda can detect the slightest contact with the ball. A tiny inertial measurement unit (IMU) sensor embedded inside the ball, records movement at around 500Hz, collecting data 500 times every second. The sensor is battery-powered, with a fully charged match ball lasting six hours. Trionda uses fewest panels ever assembled on an official ball.

How it differs from cricket's Snickometer

- Cricket's Snickometer relies on highly sensitive microphones to detect the sound created when the ball brushes the bat, pad or another surface. The Trionda ball, on the other hand, uses an embedded motion sensor to detect actual physical contact. Every touch — whether by a boot, head or hand — is recorded instantly and transmitted to the VAR in real time, providing officials with highly precise data during reviews.

Not the first time

- The tech has shaped decisions before, confirming decisive touches at 2022 World Cup, detecting a handball during Euro 2024, and overturning Sweden's disallowed goal against Tunisia after proving Alexander Isak had touched the ball in the build-up.

Contrarily, ball tech allowed Sweden's goal against Tunisia in a Group F game

Graphic: Sunil Singh

Spain deliver knockout masterclass, Mikel shines

Yet To Concede A Goal, La Roja Set Up Rd-of-16 Clash With Iberian Foes Portugal

SPAIN	3
Oyarzabal 36, 89 Porro 66	
AUSTRIA	0

Inglewood: Although Spain arrived at this year's World Cup as a championship favourite and then went unbeaten through group play, those first three matches weren't overly impressive. When the knockout rounds finally arrived Thursday, this star-studded team turned on its full talent and served notice that Spain can be just as good as everybody thought — and it's probably getting better.

Mikel Oyarzabal scored two goals and Spain beat Austria 3-0 for their first World Cup victory in a knockout match since winning the title in 2010. Pedro Porro added a goal in the second half as La Roja put on their most impressive performance of the tournament while demonstrating offensive creativity and defensive rigor throughout its vaunted lineup.

"The great teams step up when it's needed," Spain coach Luis De La Fuente said. "We played a great match. We came close to perfection, but we must keep improving."

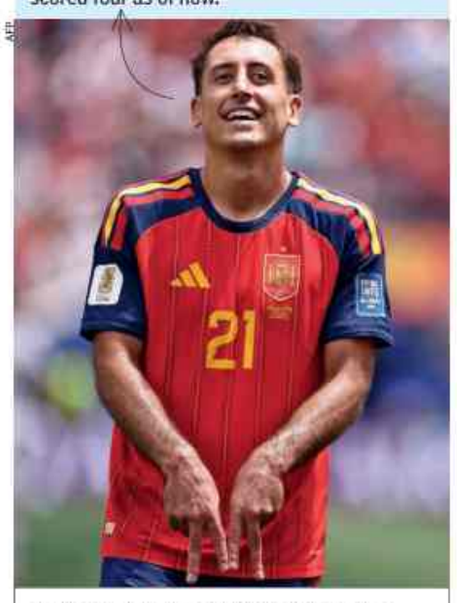
While Oyarzabal, fullback Marc Cucurella and winger Lamine Yamal all had sensational moments in attack, Spain also has yet to allow a goal at this year's World Cup. Austria failed to get a shot on target, so Unai Simon didn't have to make a save. Everybody in a red shirt was happy after a dominant day in the Los Angeles area — but nobody was satisfied, either.

"I'm happy to have helped the team for us to go through another round," Oyarzabal said. "We knew that it was going to be difficult against a very physical team, but we had a very good day and played a good match." La Roja will next face Portugal, a 2-1 winner over Croatia, in Dallas on Monday in the round of 16. Yamal had four of Spain's 10 shots on goal while getting wild cheers from the pro-Spanish sellout crowd at SoFi Stadium. The 18-year-old Barcelona sensation played his longest stretch of the tournament before coming off in the 85th minute, moments after Austria defender David Alaba deflected Yamal's hard shot off the goal line.

Spain got their marquee offence from Oyarzabal, the Real Sociedad captain who has four goals at this year's World Cup by opening the scoring in the 36th minute and clinching the victory in the 89th. Cucurella had assists on both of Oyarzabal's goals. AGENCIES

2 Pau Cubarsi and Lamine Yamal are the first pair of teenagers to start a World Cup knockout match for a team in 68 years. The last? Pele and Altafini in 1958 for Brazil against Wales in the quarterfinal.

1 **Mikel Oyarzabal** is the first Spanish player to score two or more goals in two different matches of the same World Cup. He has scored four as of now.



AP

GOALKEEPER SIMON HAS THE LONGEST SHUTOUT STREAK IN WORLD CUP HISTORY

Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon has the longest shutout streak in World Cup history, breaking a 36-year-old record while blanking Austria in a 3-0 victory for his fourth consecutive clean sheet. Simon hasn't allowed a goal in 519 consecutive minutes across the past two World Cups. He broke the record set in 1990 by famed Italy goalkeeper Walter Zenga, who recorded 517 straight scoreless minutes and five consecutive clean sheets in his home World Cup.

'Versatile' Manzambi charts Switzerland's success story

Vancouver: Johan Manzambi delivered another standout performance at the World Cup as Switzerland booked their place in the round of 16 on Thursday. The 20-year-old set up his team's opener in a 2-0 victory over Algeria.

Coming into the game with three goals and an assist to his name, Manzambi was once again central to Switzerland's attacking threat as they ended an 88-year wait for a World Cup knockout victory.

SWITZERLAND	2
Embolo 10, Ndoye 46	
ALGERIA	0

After scoring one and setting up another in the 2-1 group-stage win over co-hosts Canada, Manzambi was handed a second consecutive World Cup start by coach Murat Yakin.

The youngster repaid that faith with a display full of confidence and intelligence. After taking the lead, Switzerland settled into a five-man midfield, with Manzambi given the freedom to roam.

Switzerland's opener was a perfect illustration of his quality. Picking up the ball on the left flank, Manzambi drove forward with purpose before whipping a low cross across the face of goal for Breel Embolo to sweep home.

"I think that you can really use Manzambi on every single position," Yakin told reporters. "He's incredibly versatile and assertive.

"He has a lot of speed with the ball. He found amazing situations two or three times. But he also had to work defensively. And the longer the match went on, the more difficult it got for him.

"There was a moment when we had to work defensively, and he still had the strength to carry the ball and play it 60 metres across the pitch. Manzambi is evolving in the tournament. I think that in the beginning it really didn't look like it. But I am just very happy with his development."

The midfielder looked entirely at ease operating alongside seasoned internationals Granit Xhaka, Denis Zakaria and Remo Freuler.

It was a role carrying considerable responsibility for a player appearing at his first World Cup, yet he embraced it impressively, working tirelessly both in and out of possession. REUTERS

Mahrez calls it a day
Riyad Mahrez, a five-time Premier League winner, announced his retirement from international soccer following Algeria's exit. "There were good times and difficult times as well, of course. That's part of a career," he said afterward. "But representing Algeria has been a dream of mine ever since I was young, to play for my country. It's been an immense honor and a great source of pride." He added: "It is the new generation's turn to play."

AP

KEY MAN: Johan Manzambi (9) in full flight

Luka, skywalker supreme for Croatia

Nilesh.Bhattacharya @timesofindia.com

> **Well, this was probably Luka's last World Cup. And I'm sorry that it ended this way. We've come to an end of a wonderful era."**
> —**Zlatko Dalic,** CROATIA COACH

Luka Modric's exit from the World Cup stage and, with it possibly international football as well, did not turn out to be the beau ideal or a perfect 10, a number he has so adoringly and alluringly made his own in these years.

The end was though dramatic — and cruel. As Croatia thought Josko Gvardiol's late equaliser against Portugal was enough to defy the inevitable, enter VAR with its usual plot twist and turn it into a cause celebre. Modric, looking stoically detached from the chaos around him, his face reflecting a sobering resignation to fate, was slowly enveloped in a warm hug from Cristiano Ronaldo. It was a moment of catharsis.

Of the two middle-aged men, Ronaldo would now go deeper into the tournament but Modric's fifth bid for the biggest prize will remain elusive. "I played with Luka for many years. We're almost the same age. He's a football legend; he's still a football legend because he keeps playing so well and with such great quality. It's incredible," Ronaldo later let his feeling known to the world.

The 40-year-old Croatian — often hailed as the greatest player from the tiny, proud central European country — is ringing the curtain on his World Cup career with a silver and a bronze medal, with the Golden Ball and the Bronze Ball to boot.

A sportsperson's eternal thirst for completing an endeavour often comes with its presumed value and a reassuring order, but judging Modric with this perception is anything but a conventional valediction. Because pity has never been a requisite for generating passion in his play, because his football has always throbbed to its life-affirming nature. This is where he is unique, perhaps offering a more humane conception of a sporting hero.

If Davor Suker — goal-machine par excellence — represented a symbol of hope and happiness for a newly independent Croatia by helping them finish third in the 1998 World Cup, Modric has extended that legacy serving as a bridge between the country's astounding arrival and its new identity in the 21st century as a football powerhouse. Modric himself was a child of Croatia's battle for independence, his early years turning one for a refugee moving from one place to another in search of survival. Luckily, instead of picking up arms, he found in football the calm in the chaos.

His football has since sought to restore order in the disorder and this has helped him rise above the mediocre. In his delightfully alluring presence, in those sumptuous, outside-of-the-boot flicks or crosses, beauty has resided like an object of transcending elegance, like Roger Federer's backhand — conjuring up a mystique and how it transitions defence into attack, and attack into a winner before opponents could even get a grasp of it.

Like every No. 10, he has been a quintessential dreamer with the ball. Tottenham gave him the platform to announce his arrival and it was at Real Madrid where he had truly found his dramatic stage to realize his dream, marrying his method with an unflinching rhetorical fancy. It was never stereotypical, but rather a symphony of pure joy.

His rise as the heartbeat of the Spanish club coincided with Croatia's most successful time in international football, finishing second in the 2018 World Cup and third four years later in Qatar.

In his last dance on the world's stage, he might have tumbled like an aging king, but it was not before thrilling the crowd. Football will feel a bit empty now but Modric's legacy will be a lasting one.

Coincidence of life: Ronaldo after Jota tribute a year on

Toronto: Cristiano Ronaldo said it was a "coincidence of life" that Portugal's win on Thursday came almost a year since the death of his teammate Diogo Jota.

Ronaldo and his teammates posed with Jota's number 21 jersey after their gripping win against Croatia sent Portugal into the last 16. "The coincidence of life, it's unbelievable," Ronaldo said. "We knew it before the game. It was a so special moment. We speak today, our group, about that, the coincidence of life. It's unbelievable." Ronaldo also pulled on a number 21 jersey at the end of the game to conduct interviews. Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said the victory had special meaning.

"For Portuguese fans this is a very happy day and also because of the meaning of the game, we've moved to the round of 16. In a year where we honoured Diogo Jota." Jota and his brother Andre Silva were killed when their car crashed as they drove through Spain on July 3 last year on his way back to report for pre-season training in England. AFP

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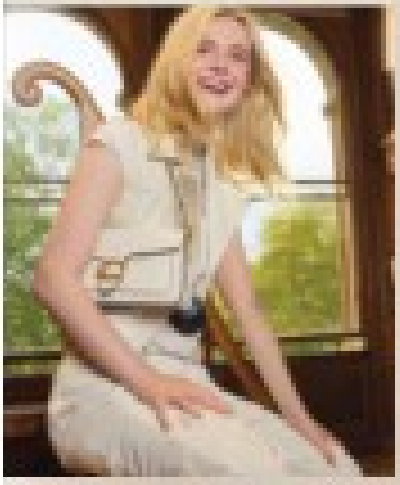

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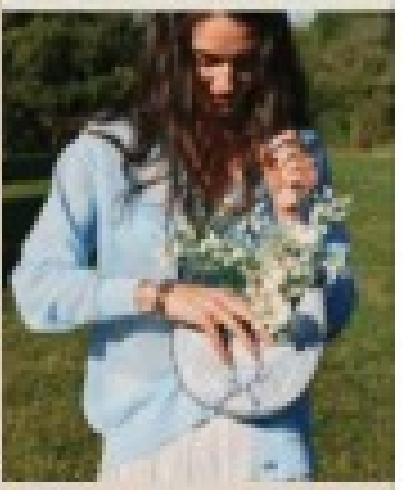

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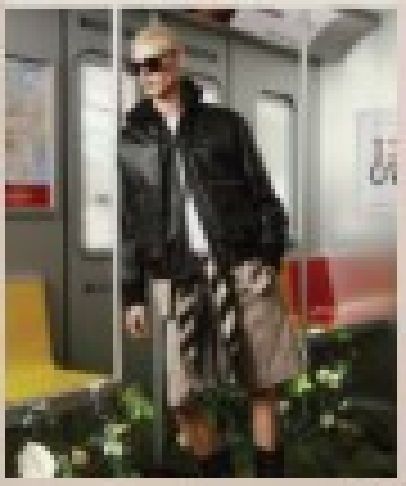

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Julian Nagelsmann quits as Germany coach after his team lost to Paraguay in the WC this week; former Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp is in line to take over

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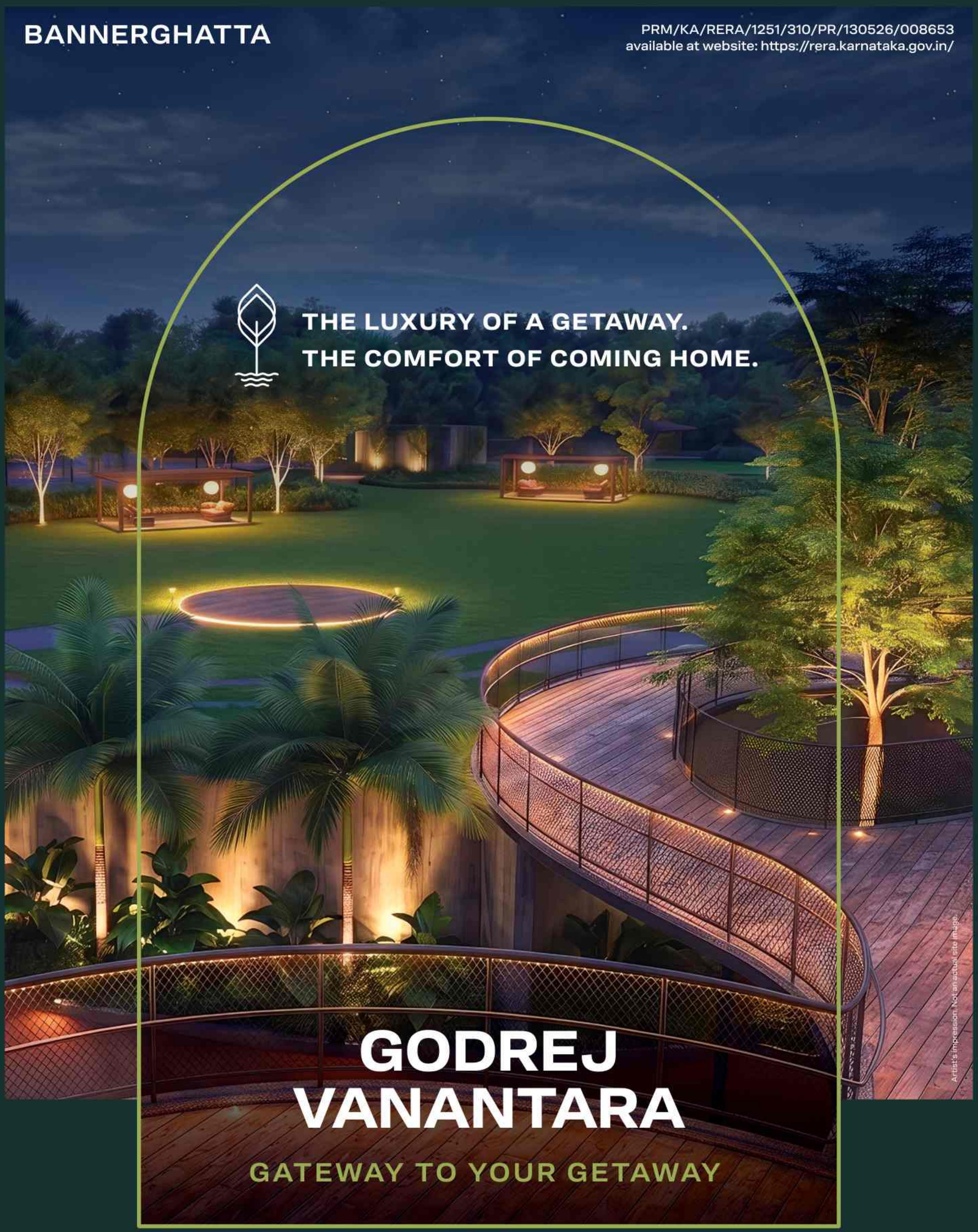

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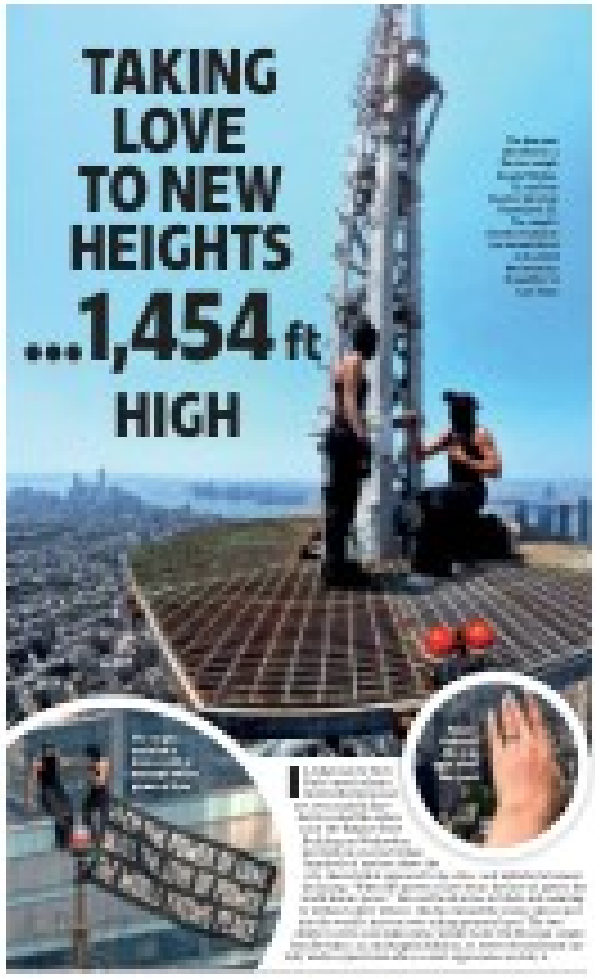

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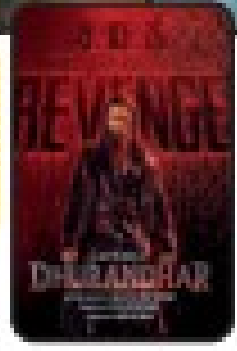

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GOAT GREATEST OF ALL TIME SALE

Powered by intel CORE ULTRA | AI+ NOVA SMARTPHONE

Flipkart

Deals Just Got GOATed.

SALE IS LIVE

ICICI Bank | BOBCARD | HSBC | 10% Instant Discount* on Credit Cards & EMI Transactions *T&Cs Apply

BAJAJ FINANCE AVAIL UP TO 12M EASY EMIs

Flipkart EMI INSTANT NO COST EMI FOR EVERYONE GET CREDIT UP TO ₹1 LAKH*

Televisions

LG
55" (139 cm) 4K LED
~~₹85,990~~ **₹37,999***

LG
65" (164cm) 4K Nano LED
~~₹1,05,990~~ **₹55,990***

LG
43" (108cm) 4K LED
~~₹45,990~~ **₹26,999***

Samsung
43" (108cm) 4K LED
~~₹39,900~~ **₹25,990***

TCL
55" (139cm) 4K QLED
~~₹76,990~~ **₹31,499***

Samsung
55" (138cm) Mini LED
~~₹59,990~~ **₹37,999***

TCL
43" (108cm) 4K QLED
~~₹48,990~~ **₹24,999***

Samsung
65" (163cm) 4K LED
~~₹79,990~~ **₹54,499***

Sony
55" (139cm) 4K LED
~~₹91,900~~ **₹54,999***

Xiaomi
55" (138cm) 4K QLED
~~₹62,999~~ **₹29,999***

Acerpure Nitro
75" (189cm) 4K QLED
~~₹1,25,290~~ **₹49,999***

Motorola
65" (165cm) 4K QLED
~~₹88,399~~ **₹40,249***

TCL
T6C 75" (189cm) 4K QLED
~~₹1,79,990~~ **₹58,999***

Sony Bravia 3
55" (139cm) 4K LED
~~₹1,18,900~~ **₹65,999***

realme Techlife
65" (164cm) QLED
~~₹86,599~~ **₹37,999***

Xiaomi
43" (108cm) 4K Fire Mini LED
~~₹49,999~~ **₹27,999***

Hisense
65" (164cm) 4K QLED
~~₹89,999~~ **₹40,999***

Philips
55" (138cm) 4K Mini LED
~~₹84,999~~ **₹39,999***

Lumio Vision 7
55" (139cm) 4K QLED
~~₹68,999~~ **₹32,999***

TCL P6L
55" (138cm) 4K LED
~~₹74,990~~ **₹29,999***

Samsung
55" (138cm) 4K OLED
~~₹1,38,900~~ **₹97,740***

Additional off up to ₹10,000* on exchange of TVs

Trust Shield — From Manufacturing Defects to Accidental Damage: Resolution in 48 hours. Zero Hassle.

Washing Machines + Dishwasher

Samsung 8 Kg
Top Load
~~₹30,990~~
₹18,990*

LG 9 Kg
Front Load
~~₹52,990~~
₹33,749*

Whirlpool 7 Kg
Top Load
~~₹19,550~~
₹14,999*

IFB 8 Kg
Front Load
~~₹45,990~~
₹30,490*

Haier 6.5 Kg
Top Load
~~₹19,900~~
₹12,690*

Bosch 7 Kg
Front Load
~~₹49,990~~
₹26,749*

Bosch 13 Place
Dishwasher
~~₹58,990~~
₹43,999*

IFB 9/6 Kg
Washer Dryer
~~₹66,690~~
₹46,499*

Refrigerators + ACs

Samsung 330 L
Double Door
3 Star
~~₹51,999~~
₹36,990*

Haier 355 L
2 Star
Convertible
~~₹62,490~~
₹35,890*

Midea 563 L
Side by Side
~~₹99,990~~
₹37,990*

Samsung 653 L
Side by Side
3 Star
~~₹1,21,000~~
₹69,990*

Samsung
1.5 Ton 3 star
~~₹78,990~~ **₹33,490***

Blue Star
1.5 Ton 4 Star
~~₹68,000~~ **₹37,240***

Voltas
1 Ton 5 Star
~~₹62,990~~ **₹34,490***

IFB
1.5 Ton 3 Star
~~₹59,990~~ **₹30,990***

Home Appliances

Crompton Ameo
750 Mixer Grinder
~~₹7,100~~ **₹2,829***

PHILIPS
6.2 L Air Fryer
~~₹12,995~~ **₹9,499***

KENT
4L Air Fryer
~~₹8,000~~ **₹2,599***

Atomberg Intellon
Water Purifier
~~₹25,999~~ **₹16,499***

Atomberg Renesa
Prime Ceiling fan
~~₹5,660~~ **₹3,549***

Ecovacs N30 Plus
Robotic Cleaner
~~₹89,999~~ **₹28,999***

Beyond Appliances
Cube Plug n Play Chimney
~~₹25,500~~ **₹11,799***

Crompton
15L Geyser
~~₹10,400~~ **₹5,699***

Flipkart MINUTES | Flipkart Plus | SuperCoin | super.money | Flipkart Travel | Flipkart BLACK

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*T&C's Apply

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